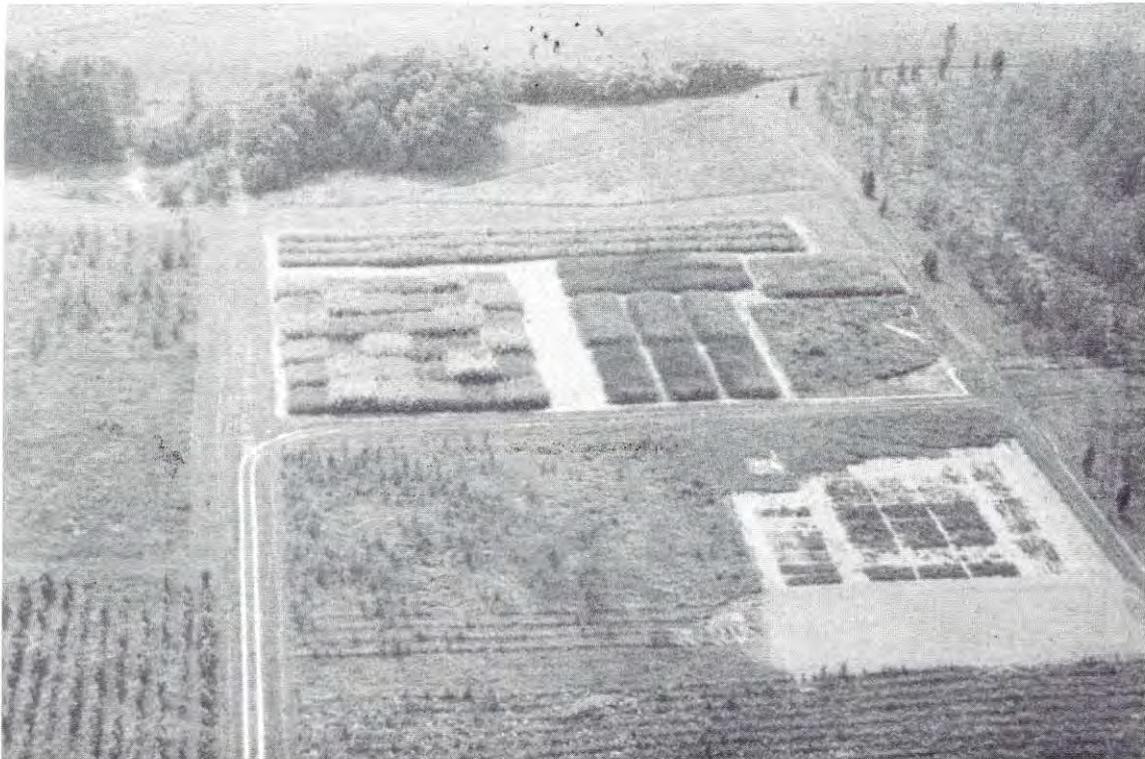


The New York
FOREST OWNER

A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association

September/October 1994



THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNER

VOL. 32, NO. 5
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COVER:

Biomass willow and hybrid poplar research plots at SUNY-ESF's Tully Nursery.

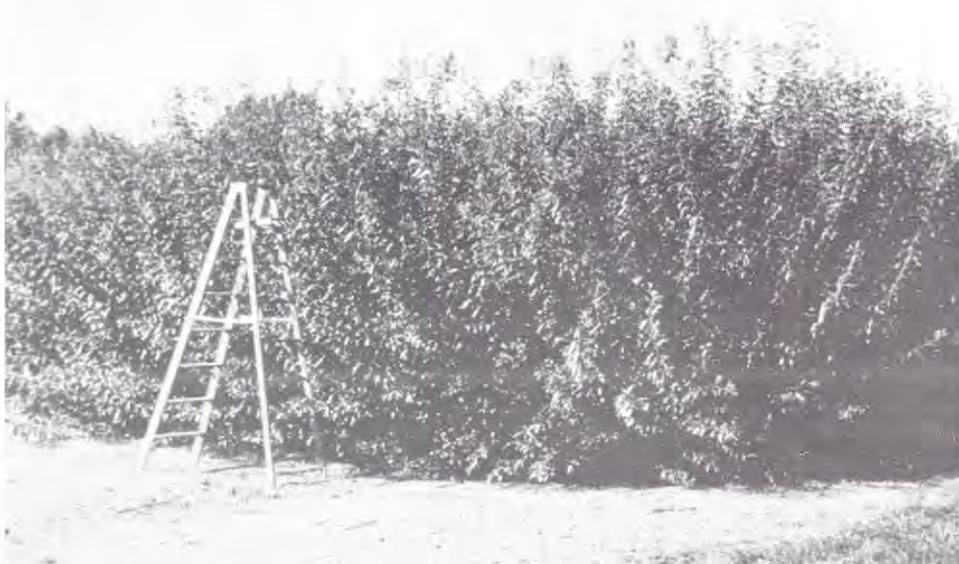
FOREST OWNER

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

Materials submitted for publication should be addressed to: R. Fox, Editor, R.D. #3, Box 88, Moravia, New York 13118. Articles, artwork and photos are invited and are normally returned after use. The deadline for submission for Nov/Dec is Oct 1.

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.

Wood Biomass Crops



1 year old willow shoots on older root stock. (See page 4)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Congratulations are in order! I'm the proud Father of ten baby Bluebirds. In the **May/June** issue of the Forest Owner, I discussed the importance of clean Bluebird houses. Apparently, my efforts paid off and I hope that yours have also. The insert photo is a picture of the first house to fledge five Bluebirds. The picture was taken shortly after the young fledglings left the nest. The later breeding is still in the nest. Every time I take my dogs for a walk, I peek in and see these five little mouths waiting for Mother to feed them. What a joy.

I apologize. In my last President's message, I forgot to mention the results of the election of the Board of Directors. I'm pleased to announce that Charlie Mowatt and Norm Richards were re-elected for a second term. John Hastings and Elizabeth Wagner were elected as new members of the Board. Each of these individuals brings a different perspective and will be a valuable asset to the Association.

In my **July/August** President's message, I mentioned that there would be a \$5.00 dues increase and that I would convey the details as soon as the Board had an opportunity to make the appropriate decisions. At the June 25th Board Meeting, it was agreed that the increase would take effect on January 1, 1995 as anticipated. The membership dues are as follows: Indi-



President Don Wagner's Bluebird House - No Vacancies!

vidual - \$20.00; Family - \$25.00; Contributing \$30.00 - \$100.00; and Sponsoring - \$101.00 and Over. It's important to note that Individual membership provides the privilege of one vote, whereas the Family membership provides for two votes. This change was discussed in great detail and received unanimous support of the Board. I personally feel this is an important step forward for NYFOA.

Just a reminder the **Fall Meeting** being coordinated by **THRIFT** is scheduled for

Friday, September 30th and Saturday, October 1st in Boonville. This should be an outstanding event with an excellent program, interesting tours and exceptional food. I can personally vouch for the food at the Hulbert House. Hope to see all of you at this meeting.

From time to time, it is important for the Board of Directors, Chapter and Affiliate Chairs and Newsletter Editors to get together. Because we are a volunteer organization, there is constant and continuous change in leadership and responsibility. A few years ago, a Leadership Retreat was held at the Arnot Forest that was extremely valuable. This year a Retreat with a similar format is being planned for September 9th and 10th at Dodge Pond, located in the Northern Adirondacks. I'm confident that this will be a successful event with a great deal of knowledge disbursed.

Lastly, I'm extremely proud to announce that NYFOA's membership currently exceeds **1,800**. This is a significant increase and is the highest membership achieved to date. In almost every message I talk about the importallce of an increase in membership. Some of you must have been listening and have worked very diligently at this task. Thank you and keep up the good work. If every member were to make a commitment to sign up just one new member, we could double our membership over night. Let's make that a goal - just one new member each.



President Don Wagner and "friend" at Piseco Lake.

Photo by B. Miner.

SILVICULTURE OF WOOD BIOMASS CROPS AS AN INDUSTRIAL ENERGY FEEDSTOCK

By Daniel Robison,
Lawrence Abrahamson & Edwin White

The production of wood to fuel industrial boilers is based on the principle of maximizing biomass growth per acre per year. There are no requirements for dimension characteristics. Any tree species capable of rapid growth at close spacings and short rotations is potentially suitable. Close spacing facilitates full site usage, and thus early achievement of crown closure and inter-tree competition. These lead to the need for short rotations.

Species capable of vigorous coppice growth (stump sprouting after harvest) are necessary because a single planting can result in multiple harvests. Almost by definition, wood biomass crops are grown under intensive management, in agri-forest systems. **Agri-forestry** is the application of agricultural practices to the production of a forest crop (often confused with **agro-forestry** - the mixing of agricultural and forest crops).

Successful wood biomass crops are based on the use of genetically improved trees, proper site/soil selection, and effective weed (and other pests) management. Genetic gains made in tree improvement programs, and



*Harvesting willow with modified sugar-cane harvester.
Willow is only harvested during the winter.*

specific individual tree characteristics are most effectively used in plantation establishment through vegetative propagation and clonal forestry techniques. In this system, superior trees are cloned such that an unlimited supply of genetically identical trees are produced.

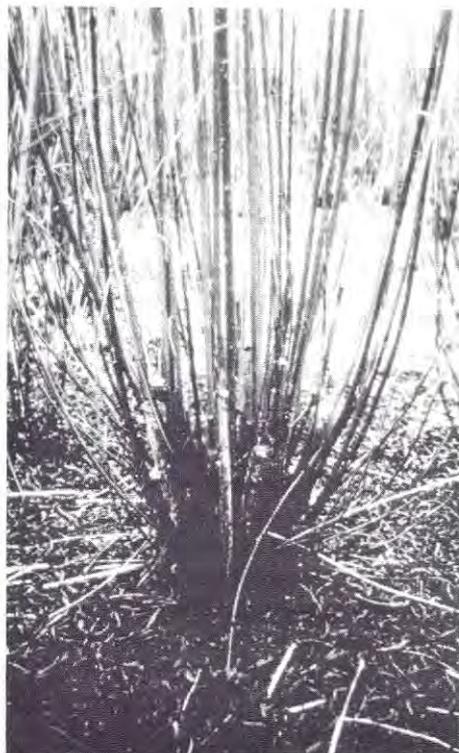
Each clone has its own specific growth, soil adaptability and pest resistance characteristics. Each clone is given a unique name, with designations such as SA 2, SV1, DN44, NE262, NM6 or NC769. Before a clone is planted, research should have precisely determined which soils it will grow well on, and if it is resistant to specific pests. A clone planted on an inappropriate soil will grow poorly or not at all. To minimize the threat of pest problems, several clones suitable for the site should be planted. This provides a degree of genetic diversity. Clones should not be "bucket-mixed," but rather planted in distinct and identifiable blocks. This permits replacement of clones which fail and avoids inter-clone competition. In a bucket mix, clonal failure represents a loss of stocking which cannot be replaced.

In New York, research has shown that hybrid poplars and willows have the greatest potential as biomass crops. Silver maple and black locust, for example, may also have biomass potential in NY. Sycamore, eucalyptus and other species have biomass potential in other regions. Willows (*Salix* spp.)

and poplars (*Populus* spp.) meet all of the characteristics previously described. Taxonomically they are in the same family (Salicaceae). For many years tree improvement programs have worked to develop more productive poplar and willow clones. In biomass plantations, productivity of the best clones has ranged from 5 to 13 oven-dry tons per acre per year (green weight would be approximately twice as much). These levels of productivity are 5-10+ times greater than in natural forests.

Plantation establishment requires clean tillage (herbicides, ploughing, disking) or conservation tillage of the site to prepare it for planting and to control competing weeds. Hybrid poplars and willows will not compete effectively with old-field vegetation (unlike conifers which usually can attain dominance if given sufficient time). It is not recommended that existing woodland be converted to biomass plantations. Without effective weed control poplar and willow plantations will fail. Plantations also require fertilization, at least with nitrogen once each rotation.

Planting is done in the early spring with unrooted cuttings. Hand planting is easily accomplished, however planting machines are currently being developed. The planting design is a 'double-row' system, with approximately 1 foot between trees within a row, 1.5 feet between rows, and 5 feet

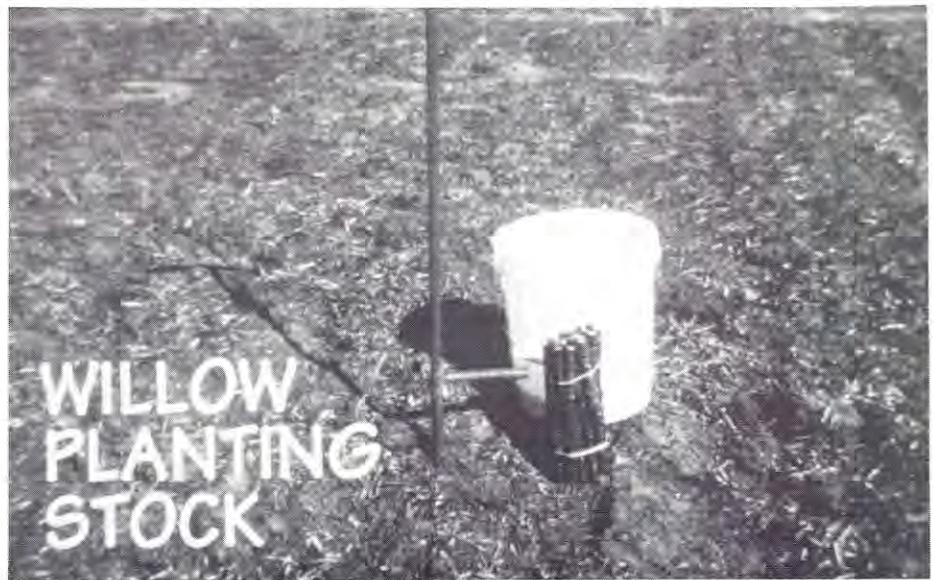


*Willow sprouts (coppicing) from
root stock/stump.*

between each double row. This system was developed in Sweden, where more than 20,000 acres have already been planted and commercially harvested. The double-row facilitates mechanical harvesting with commercially developed machines. At harvest the plantation will look like a thicket 25-35+ feet tall, with multiple stems per tree. Individual stem diameter will seldom exceed 3 inches. Harvesters can cut, chip and blow the wood into wagons, or cut and stack the trees.

Harvesting is done in the late-fall or winter. This is important because it allows the trees to translocate nutrients to roots at the end of the growing season, before harvest. Healthy root systems in turn produce vigorous coppice growth for the next rotation. Harvest cycles are 35 years long. A single planting should yield 4-7 harvest cycles before the roots are no longer productive or succumb to stress and pests. Ongoing tree improvement programs will regularly produce superior clones to replace old ones (similar to the yearly introduction of new agricultural crop varieties).

Economically, biomass crops for industrial bioenergy are not yet commercially feasible. A study currently underway will identify the opportunities and challenges to commercializing the system. The extremely high rates of productivity will help to reduce the cost per ton. Pricing may vary between dedicated wood energy users and power companies co-firing wood with coal. The economic impact of wood gasification to methane, or conversion to liquid fuels such as ethanol is unknown. Wood biomass from plantations will not replace the market for



10 inch willow cutting for hand planting in early spring.

chips from timber stand improvement activities or wood waste. Rather, it will supplement these sources.

Benefits of biomass crops include revitalization of abandoned cropland and rural economies, enhanced landscape and crop diversity, and soil conservation and reduced pesticide use (as compared to traditional agricultural crops). Burning wood instead of coal reduces SOx emissions responsible for the threat of acidic deposition. Burning wood from dedicated biomass plantations is considered CO2 neutral, reducing the threat of global warming. It is considered CO2 neutral because growing trees sequester CO2, burning releases it, and with dedicated plantations the cycle is balanced.

The Biomass Program at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry is supported by the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority, Electric Power Research Institute, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, Empire State Electric Energy Research Corporation, NYS Electric and Gas Corporation, and the US Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Other co-operators include USDA Soil Conservation Service, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and University of Toronto. Scale-up and demonstration biomass plantations are scheduled for 1995-96.

SUNY/ESF HOLDS TIMBER SECURITY WORKSHOP

October 12 or 13 will be a choice of days to attend a workshop in Bradford, PA sponsored by the Northeast Petroleum-Forest Resources Cooperative and SUNY-ESF. Starting at 8 AM and concluding at 4:15 PM, the day-long sessions include speakers, breaks & refreshments, lunch, handouts, and a panel/audience discussion. The subjects: Timber Security, Theft, Vandalism, and Trespass; for registration contact ESF Continuing Education, SUNY ESF, 1 Forestry Drive, Syracuse, NY 13210-2784 (315) 470-6565.

SUNY ESF Examines Conifer Plantations

A Conifer Plantation Workshop was hosted by the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF) on June 14-15, 1994. Funding for the workshop came from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)- Bureau of Forest Resources, through the Forest Stewardship Program of the US Department of Agriculture. State-of-the-art information on plantation culture was presented. Discussions also covered policy, economic and environmental issues surrounding plantations. The aging of New York's conifer plantations, the viable marketplace for conifer pulp and timber, the costs of establishment, and land use issues were debated. Various aspects of site selection, silviculture, soil, weed, insect and disease management, genetic improvement, and wildlife and landscape/ecosystem management were covered. In general, the species considered suitable for New York were white and red pine, Norway and white spruce, and larch. It was recognized that conifer plantations have a significant role in New York's forests and forest products economy, that new plantation establishment is often cost limited, and that planning should be done on a site specific basis. In attendance were NYSDEC, industry and consulting foresters. Presenters were from SUNY ESF, NYSDEC, University of Maine, University of Florida, US Forest Service, Empire State Forest Products Association, Audubon Society, and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

Ask A Forester

ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT MUST INCLUDE THE HUMAN ELEMENT, ...or, how can this be called ecological management?

By Charlie Mowatt

U.S. forestry has evolved from agricultural land clearing to tree farming, to multiple use, to new forestry, to stewardship, to ecological management of landscapes. The speed with which forest management buzzwords have recently been displaced reflects the turmoil and uncertain direction within the forestry community. The turmoil is understandable in light of our diverse and complex management objectives; the dreams we hold for our forests.

Some of these management schemes have a narrow focus, some broad. The latest, a landscape approach, is so comprehensive in scope that there is no agreement on a definition much less concrete direction. Nonetheless, since all of these concepts strive to supply society's wishes or demands, I will call all of them "supply-side management concepts". The latest, in the line, therefore, would be called "supply-side ecological management of landscapes."

I firmly believe that no matter how supply-side management is organized, or how comprehensive it is, or by what name it is called, or how loudly it is lobbied by the public, it cannot be more than a very short bridge to the future unless society addresses "demand-side ecology"; the crushing effects of uncontrolled growth of human populations. We have already seen large-scale instances of human populations in other parts of the world that have far outstripped their environment's ability to provide even the most bleak existence. Quality of life, by any measure, has dropped off the bottom of the scale in these places.

The current world population is 5.7 billion. Each day, there are a quarter of a million more of us than there were the day before. Every year, we are adding another Mexico to the burden of our small planet.

We cannot expect the earth to provide the necessities of survival, much less environmental quality, for an unending population expansion. At some point we will have to drop the religious and cultural masks that equate quantity with quality; that are oblivious to the effects of overpopulation; that believe some divinity will save us, if only we

Memorable Quotes

"If the misery of our poor be caused not by the laws of nature, but by our institutions, great is our sin." - Charles Darwin



Tom Toles

Reproduced with permission from THE BUFFALO NEWS, July 14, 1994

close our eyes tight enough and pray hard enough; that believe that humans are not capable of making rational decisions upon which the existence of civilization depends.

We will have to take charge of our destiny because there is no alternative.

I get very sad, then mad, when I see stories about "large mining companies" ripping up the turf; about the cutting of trees reduced to a "jobs vs the environment" sound bite; about the overgrazing of public land by "cattle interests;" about the depleted fish stocks of salmon or haddock or cod caused by "overfishing": as if some big bad greedy "they" are driving the environment to ruin. While the manner in which these industries operate is the subject of much legitimate criticism, they are not at the heart of the environmental problem.

We must understand that miners, loggers, cowboys, commercial fishermen and all the other satisfiers of our hungers and wants do not create the demands for products of the earth. They create the demands no more than Farmer Brown creates the demand for food. No, we create the demands and there are far too many of us. Pogo was ahead of his time when he said, "We have met the enemy and they is us."

For starters, we should:

*work toward elimination of welfare and tax structures that reward unlimited childbearing. It is counter-productive to society's long term needs for a couple (woman) to bring more than replacements (two babies) into a world that is already overpopulated.

*eliminate the cultural pressures and teachings that promote childbearing. Introduce the idea that there is nothing wrong with the decision to stay childless. At the very minimum, we should strive to have children be born only to people who want them. There is no place for "Oops" in our vocabulary of childbearing.

* start teaching about who the environmental "bad guys" really are; us.

*initiate ecological management plans that promote strategies encouraging the limitation of populations to numbers commensurate with the planet's ability to support them at an acceptable level of quality. Without identifying Homo sapien population targets, we cannot begin to build ecological management plans.

Charlie Mowatt, retired DEC forester, serves on NYFOA's Board of Directors.

Letters....

No Thunder This Time

By Dorothy S. Darling

The Red Maple shudders in the humid air,
The Mock Orange has long left its leaf;
A neighbor contemplates his high roof,
And grass circles pansies like a wreath.

Birds are hidden, their chatter subdued
As the sun slides behind the dark cloud,
And where I calmly sit upon the porch
A rare hush covers this quiet crowd.

It is all a matter of prelude, of course,
As color mounts trees, tinting leaves,
But this time it is a silent storming—
Autumn rains overflowing the eaves.



Letters.....

The Spring Meeting

Norm Richards' "Managing Wildflowers in Woods and Fields", the last of the agenda, ended too late for Jane and I to describe the damage done by the "uncontrolled survival of the fittest" in the lower Hudson valley.

A copy of the Institute of Ecosystems Studies Newsletter was given to Wes Suhr. This lists the invasive plants which have eliminated the biodiversity that thrived before these plants were introduced by forest and agriculture personnel recommendations. Invasive exotics, such as Japanese Barberry spread by birds; but untouched by uncontrolled deer populations, has changed the character of the woodland. We are suffering with the results of some of these recommendations made in the sixties.

It was well worth the 400 mile round trip to attend the annual meeting and program in Syracuse. —John & Jane Geisler, Verbank

Letters.....

Loggers Overcut

Your Jul/Aug issue is especially informative. When coupling the information with comments made in a recent Binghamton TV broadcast, "US Farm Report", I am moved to express my observations of the logging industry's rationale versus the rationale of environmentalists.

Loggers are motivated to cut every tree of value at the greatest rate possible. . . to obtain the most money in the least time. Their attitude is appalling and myopic.

The environmentalist seeks to spread the harvest of large trees over the years, a century or more, which will permit continuous replacement.

It is conspicuous that current generations in the Northwestern and Alaskan timber industries want to cut forests fast, sell the timber on the world market, and live in high style. The remaining young forests can never yield enough to support the children of these loggers in their time. The average diameter of trees in New York appear to me to become smaller. Loggers must slacken the rate of harvest. —Harold Haslett, Greene

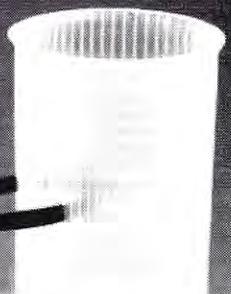
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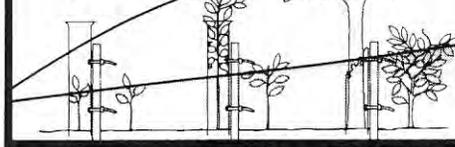
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NYFOA'S FALL MEETING

The 1994 fall meeting is hosted by the four county affiliate: Tug Hill Resources - Investment for Tomorrow. The Tug Hill Plateau is historically and currently rich in timber and forest products. Hulbert House, an 18th century stagecoach inn, is a landmark for its food and located in the center of Boonville; it will serve as our headquarters for the weekend.

Plan to overnight in or near Boonville. Registrants should make their own registrations as soon as possible, because Sunday, October 2nd is the annual "Fall Foliage Tour" and accommodations will be in demand.

Consider the very popular Lewis County Fall Foliage Tour on Sunday. Many sites of small businesses and century farms are part of the itinerary. The trees are in peak colors at the time and THRIFT will have the drive yourself (\$1.00) tour maps available.

Further questions and additional lodging sites may be addressed to: **Harold Petrie**, N. Camden Rd., RRI Box 117, Parish, NY 13131-9736 (315)625-7526
Dick Mark, RD 1, Box 190, Constantia, NY 13044-9776 (315) 623-9476

THE SPEAKERS

Samuel W. Argetsinger.....

"Loggers as Environmental Stewards"

Sam is an independent logger from Burdett in Schuyler County with 14 years experience working with Gutchess Lumber, Cotton-Hanlon Lumber, and Coastal Lumber. He attended Syracuse University and has three children. He has developed a timber harvesting philosophy that future generations will have the same abundant resources that we enjoy today (as practiced by the Seneca Nation, among whom he has many friends).

Carl Golas....

"My View of the Primary & Secondary Wood Products Industry"

Carl is manager of the Wood Products Implementation Project for the Adirondack North Country Association where he provides outreach and technical support to business, as well as industrial recruitment, education, and training to primary and secondary companies. He has visited over 250 wood product firms in the 6 county

area since joining ANCA in 1992. Carl holds a BS in Wood Products Engineering from SUNY-ESF, is president of the Lewis County Chamber of Commerce, and is a 24-year member of the Forest Products Research Society.

John Page.....

"Habits for Good Wildlife Management"

John is senior wildlife biologist with NYS Department of Conservation, Region 6, Utica. His specialty is wildlife management. John joined DEC in 1973 after working for West Virginia Pulp and Paper. He graduated in 1966 from the Ranger School and in 1969 received a BS in Resources Management. He is the treasurer of Utica Marsh, Inc. and resides in Lee Center.



NYFOA'S FALL MEETING SCHEDULE

Boonville, NY - Hosted by the THRIFT Affiliate

Friday, September 30, 1994

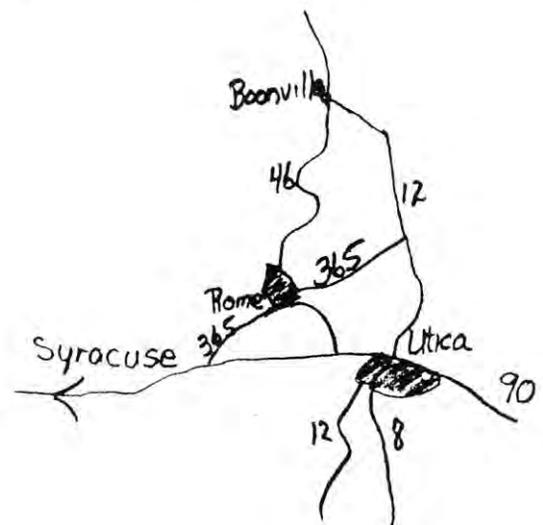
- 4:30-6:00PM Registration at Hulbert House
- 6:00-7:30 Buffet Dinner at renowned Hulbert House
- 7:30-9:30 Speakers: John Page, Wildlife Management; Sam Argetsinger, Logging; Carl Golas, Forest Industry

Saturday, October 1

- 8:00-9:00AM Breakfast Buffet, Hulbert House
- 9:00 Tours/Field Trips; Lyons Falls Pulp & Paper Mill Tour, Lyons Falls Pulp & Paper Woodlands Woodwalk, Lewis County & NYS Woodlands Field Trips. Box lunches will be provided.

Optional Sunday, October 2

A self-guided driving tour designed to appreciate the fall foliage.



Registration Form

Please **complete and mail this form (or copy) before September 18, 1994 with your check payable to THRIFT** to: Robert S. Watson, RD1, Box 221, Camden, NY 13316

Name: _____
(For couples, please include both first names for name tags.)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone(s) (____) _____

Fri. 9/30	Buffet Dinner* <i>(includes registration fee):</i>	\$12.50	x _____	persons = _____
Sat. 10/1	Breakfast Buffet*:	\$6.10	x _____	persons = _____
Sat. 10/1	Box Lunch <i>(2 sandwiches and fruit):</i>	\$5.40	x _____	persons = _____
	Registration Fee only:	\$5.00	x _____	persons = _____
	Total			\$ _____

Please note any dietary restrictions so that Hulbert House may accommodate you.

**All meal prices include tax and gratuity.*

SELECT YOUR PREFERENCES FOR THE TOURS/FIELD TRIPS

	9:15-12:30 A.M.	1:15-3:45 P.M.
<input type="checkbox"/> Mill Tour — Lyons Falls Pulp and Paper Co. <i>(Limited to 15 persons per tour. First received registrants will be honored.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Lyons Falls Pulp and Paper Co. Forest Lands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Lewis County Public Lands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Otter Creek Horse Trails, New York State	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

THE TOURS

MILL TOUR OF LYONS FALLS PULP AND PAPER CO.

This tour option will emphasize environmentally beneficial chlorine-free paper making. Due to safety precautions each tour is limited to 15 people. Be sure to make your choice on your registration form and remit early.

LYON FALLS PULP AND PAPER COMPANY'S FORESTS

LFPP will also provide a tour of its woodland operations, showing diversity in site and habitat conditions and associated harvesting methods. Pickup truck pooling can be arranged with THRIFT members.

OTTER CREEK HORSE TRAILS

Public land use can be seen by visiting this system: the trails are on NYS lands partly on forest preserve and partially on two state forest units. Stops on this tour will provide a look at integrating timber management with recreation contrasting the forest preserve and state forest management styles.

THE LODGINGS

Headwaters Motor Lodge
 Hulbert House, & NYFOA Hdq.
 Black River Bed & Breakfast
 Brown Barn Campgrounds
 River Front Efficiency Camps
For Other Lodgings:

Boonville	315-942-4493
Boonville	315-942-4318
Boonville	315-942-3571
Boonville	315-942-4749
Boonville	315-942-4212/942-4811
315-942-4318	

LEWIS COUNTY FORESTS

These woodlands consist of 3,000 acres, mainly in pine plantations. For comparison, we will visit recent harvest sites, both whole tree chipping and selective harvesting operations.

CHAPTER/AFFILIATES

TIOGA

On July 23 we held a woodswalk at Cotton-Hanlon's Allen lot near Montour Falls. About 20 people took part; two Cotton-Hanlon foresters guided the walk. We saw some beautiful timber including some of the largest white oak and white pine in this area. Timber has been harvested regularly since the woodlot was purchased in 1951. The current volume of standing timber is virtually the same as when the lot was purchased, demonstrating once again the fact that trees do grow over time. After a pleasant lunch we travelled to Sugarhill State Forest and climbed the lookout tower for one fine view. A good time was had by all.

Niagara Frontier

On July 9 ten members met at Beaver Meadow Audubon Center for a conducted woodswalk through the arboretum. This arboretum was an idea of the late Karen Anderson. She would be proud to see the progress and dedication it has received. We also had a walk through a nearby attractive, mature forest.

On **September 10** at 10:00 A.M. we will meet at Letchworth State Park for a conducted woodswalk on the less traveled eastern side of the park. We will see a mature red pine planting done by the CCC in the 1930s, plus natural reforestation with older growth trees in two different locations.

Allegheny Foothills

July 9 was a beautiful, sunny day and 50+ members of the AFC met at the property of Audrey & Bob Childs for our annual picnic. It was more like a family reunion with people of all ages, from babes in arms to senior citizens, present. We had a leisurely woodswalk to admire the Childses new woodsroads. There were several new members present and lots of kids. Since everyone brought a dish to pass, there was lots of great food. Too many good cooks in the AFC!

The AFC is planning its annual fundraiser....gathering cones and nuts (tree seed) for nurseries and the DEC. August 18 a harvest of balsam cones was conducted on the Mowatt farm near Franklinville. We are also gathering red pine cones, hemlock cones and butternuts and walnuts. We hope to make this our biggest year yet.

NAC

On July 9th & 10th we held a display booth at the Tupper Lake Woodsman's Field Days. Severe thunderstorms dampened our hopes of a successful turnout as they would pass through the small Adirondack Village every couple of hours. Our booth had a tarp over the exhibit and we did attract a lot of visitors at those times as we had one of the few areas where attendees could get out of the rain. Although, our heads were protected our feet were not as the field became a virtual swamp throughout most of the weekend. We appreciate all of the NAC volunteers who braved the weather with us.

We will be hosting a training seminar for all of the NYFOA Chapter leaders and newsletter editors on **September 9th & 10th** at Dodge Pond in the Town of Fine. Dodge Pond is operated by the St. Lawrence County ARC and is operated as a youth camp and convention center throughout much of the year. It has a rustic, but comfortable lodge located on a small pond back in the woods, a suitable location for a NYFOA event.

October 8th will be our next chapter woodswalk. Dave Daut and Gerald Smith will be conducting a tour of the geology and soils from Lake Champlain to the Adirondack Mountains and how it will relate to forest sites.

THRIFT

On July 14th, 20 THRIFT members and friends gathered at the DEC Office at Dadville. We shared a picnic supper together, and were then treated to a lecture about "Desirable outcomes from Forest Management Decisions," by David W. Taber. Dave, Senior Cornell Cooperative Extension Associate, is always an informative speaker.

Bernard Davies gave the history and the work involved on the experimental tree nurseries, the development of a wetlands and a fish pond. This is on the 80 acre state land parcel which was formerly a N.Y.S. Tree Nursery.

At about 7:00 p.m. we started on a walking tour of their work. It was interesting to see that professional people also have difficulty growing species that are not native to

the locality. We discovered another truth: that is, mosquitoes show no special respect; an observation made with frequency by Dave Taber.

Catskill Forestry Association

We've been very busy at CFA this spring and summer. Since March we have conducted at least one landowner program each month. Topics for workshops and seminars have included tree planting, ginseng, and apple grafting. Doc and Laurie Scranton (both Master Forest Owners) hosted a woodswalk in June at their property in Bovina. Over 20 people came to learn about a variety of topics on woodland management, including the 480a Tax Law, precommercial thinning, accessing property with roads and trails, and pruning small walnut and older apple trees.

On Saturday, July 16, over 40 landowners and others converged on the Tree Farm of Jerry Gotsch near Grahamsville. Sullivan County for a Stewardship Incentives Program/Practices Woodswalk (including Charlie and Marion Mowatt). Jerry has implemented several SIP practices throughout his property (in his family for almost 100 years), including thinnings, seep development, wildlife openings, trail construction, and permanent food plots. The goals of the program were to learn more about SIP and observe the completed practices. Tom Backus of DEC Region 3 in New Paltz presented an overview of the SIP program as everyone ate lunch under an apple tree in Jerry's yard. The group then was led on a tour of the property with Jerry, Tom, and consulting forester Paul Kowalczyk discussing the various practices and answering questions.

CFA is participating with a number of other groups in the region, including NYS-DEC, NYCDEP, area Forest Practice Boards, the Forest Service, and area timber harvesters in a Watershed Education Committee. The Committee's purposes are to identify lapses in the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) throughout the watershed and gaps in training or knowledge of landowners, foresters and timber harvesters.

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for **September 10** at Norm Richard's Tree Farm. Details of the meeting are forthcoming. For more information please call our office at 914-586-3054.

People and Trees, Partners in Time,

Capital District

The Capital District Chapter sponsored a woodswalk on Sunday, June 12, 1994, at the Cornell Farm in Johnsonville, Rensselaer County. Thirty - four people toured sections of the 200 acre farm under the able guidance of John Clancy and Bill Shongar, two DEC foresters. The group saw recent plantings of 100 each of black walnut, cherry, and red oak; an excellent example of a careful and productive timber harvest; and the natural regeneration of a major blowdown area caused by the devastating October 1987 snowstorm.

Thanks go to Dennis Colliton of Delanson, who served as chapter chair, for his able direction and always accessible wit and wisdom. Buzz Gosch of Westerlo is the new chair, with Jill and Barry Cornell serving as the vice chairs. Additional emphasis will be placed on the expansion of the membership and activities of the chapter.

Finally, the Capital District Chapter is exceptionally honored and pleased to have as our major resource person, Mike Greason, as Associate Forester for NYS DEC Division of Lands and Forest in the Central Office in Albany. Mike was last year's winner of the Heiberg Award and was recently honored as "Forester of the Year" by the New York Society of American Foresters at their annual meeting in Cortland. Readers of this publication also enjoyed Mike's article entitled "The Amazing Amazon" in the July/August 1994 issue.

Currently, plans for a number of Fall and Winter events are being made and will be announced upon final confirmation.

Central New York

We are still resting up after Family Forest Fair. Our Summer Chapter Picnic was held on August 3rd at Vern & Marj Hudsons'. The weather was cooperating with us again, 43 people attended including 3 new members and their families, and several guests, volunteers who helped at the Family Forest Fair. Next CNY chapter event is a meeting **September 29th** at 7:00 PM in the Liverpool Library Community Room. We are working on a program of interest to both members and their children,

Southeastern Adirondack

SAC has scheduled a sawmill tour of Adirondack Forest Industries in Hagedorn Mills, NY for Saturday, Sept. 10 at 9AM. This is a modern, production mill sawing predominantly hardwood lumber. Please join us; this is a great opportunity to learn about the manufacturing utilization of our wood resource.

NYFOA/SAC has been invited to participate in the second annual Forestry Expo at the Adirondack Balloon Festival on **Sept. 18 & 19** at the Warren County Airport in Glens Falls, NY. We will have a booth inside the Forestry Expo tent to pass along information to the public. This is a good chance to get the word out about NYFOA and good forestry; an estimated 50,000 people will attend the balloon launches, and the Forestry Expo is the entertainment between the morning and afternoon launches. Call Gregg at (518) 893-2236 or John at (518) 798-0248 for more information.

CNY-NYFOA BBS on Internet

The Central New York Chapter's electronic bulletin board (BBS) is nearing its second year of operation. Over the past six months two significant changes have taken place that continue to broaden access to any member who would like to participate.

The first addition to the BBS was a membership in a world wide network called FidoNet (yes, like BOW WOW). FidoNet is operated by independent BBS sysop's (acronym for system operator) who volunteer their time and money to provide toll free public access to this network. There are over 26,000 systems connected to the network world wide serving tens of thousands of users at any given time. FidoNet's services include E-mail, conferences on a variety of topics and computer file transfers.

FidoNet has also provided a gateway to the Internet that represents the second major change in CNY-NYFOA BBS operations. Yes, the Internet, the venerable information highway that you have been hearing about in the media. It is currently estimated that over 8 million users are on the Internet. The gateway that we have to the Internet is limited to E-mail only. Now the plot thickens. If you are a member of CompuServe or America Online you have access to both FidoNet and Internet that directly connects to CNY-NYFOA BBS here in Syracuse.

These network connections provide NYFOA members the unique opportunity to acquire and share information with each other. In every chapter we must have a person with a computer/modem who can share information regarding chapter events, news or acquire information for a local chapter member. How much will this cost you? Maybe nothing! As I mentioned there are probably several BBS's in your area code that will allow you to send and receive messages over FidoNet free of charge. If you need help in getting started contact me at the address below. On request, I will supply a list of BBS's in your area code.

Let's take a step into the future together. You can send me E-mail at:
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Think Globally, Act Locally, Together

The American Chestnut — A Tragicomedy

By Henry S. Kernan

For a species that has disappeared from our woodlands as a source of timber, food, and beauty, the American Chestnut commands an extraordinary amount of attention. Most of us know the chestnut tree, if we know it at all, as hardly a tree; but as a small scattered component of the understory of the Appalachian hardwood forest. Those slender, short-lived sprouts have little to suggest a dominance once held from Massachusetts to Georgia. Past, present, and future, the chronicle of this one species has the dimensions of a cosmic tragedy, or even a comedy, if we take the word in the divine sense of a journey through darkness into the realm of light. Present is a haunting, nostalgic memory of pioneer days - of rail fences, log cabins, wild food from the nearby forest, and nuts roasting by a wilderness fire. Such memories of a Golden Era once haunted the Romans, an age of honey dripping from trees, of wild food harvested without limit or effort.

Isolation in the Caucasus range probably saved the chestnut from the glacial on-

slaughts that so reduced the composition of the European forests. From there the Romans, a practical farming people, carried the tree to wherever they needed poles for their vineyards. Today old vineyards within the boundary of the former Empire are likely to have chestnut trees nearby. In the eleventh century a Benedictine monk discovered the extra large sweet nuts called marrons. All chestnuts grown in Europe for harvest and export are grafted marrons.

The genus *Castanea* has eight species, all of which cross-pollinate readily and all of which are susceptible to the blight, *Cryphonectria parasitica*. If American chestnut trees were even close to descriptions of them before the blight, we could well have left super-excellence alone! However, compulsive meddlers such as Thomas Jefferson were soon at work. By 1900 at least ten farmers were growing chestnuts as a commercial crop and eleven nurseries were selling seedlings of both European and Asian extraction.

The discovery of the blight on chestnut trees in the Bronx in 1904 might have stopped

the moving of chestnuts around the country. Instead the wide distribution of hybrids was stimulated. Within fifty years the chestnut as a timber tree was gone: hybridization had not produced a replacement. By 1960 the Department of Agriculture had dropped out of the search. Today, in the allocation of funds for research on exotic tree pests, the gypsy moth receives 85%. Even the beech and butternut receive far more than the chestnut.

Nevertheless the comedic ascent out of darkness has begun - the recovery of the chestnut as a forest tree. We brought the blight from Asia; but we also brought the resistant genes. Both by chance and design they are moving into the native stock. The large flowering and bearing chestnut trees, in the east are almost invariably either Asian or hybrid. If an American tree reaches large size, it is not more resistant to, but more isolated from, infection. Two very strong favorable factors are the habits of flowering at a very young age, even in the second year, and flowering late in the season after the danger of frost.

We need not wait on the slow workings of natural selection. At hand are scientific tools to speed the process of selection and the determination to use them.

The American Chestnut Foundation's Meadow, Virginia farm has already outplanted seedlings which are one sixteenth Asiatic and 15/16th native. On the foreign side is resistance; on the American side will be the qualities of a dominant forest tree. Now, genome mapping can detect the presence of resistant genes in a seedling and save years of waiting. Genetic engineering has the possibility of destroying the virulence of the blight fungus. Somatic embryogenesis is working to transfer resistant genes to seedlings early in development.

Healthy within the natural range, the American chestnut can outgrow and outseed oaks, hickories, and others. Yet even with a super-resistant forest tree, the task of bringing such a tree to dominance over the 200 million acre range is enormously difficult. Members of the beech family, Fagaceae, are notoriously difficult to propagate vegetatively. Research is under way at the University of Nebraska.

In Europe a virus disease of the blight fungus has saved the species, *sativa*, and the nut harvest from what has taken place in this country. The name of the disease, hypovirulence is confusing; because hyper- and hypo- mean exactly the opposite. The hypovirulent disease so weakens the blight

A LOTTERY WINNER

In the spring of 1990 Hugh Brazee of Auburn purchased two 1 year old American Chestnut seedlings (Wexford County, Michigan strain) from the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District. Because one of the trees had attained a remarkable height of ten feet and was extravagantly in bloom, Hugh contacted the Cornell County Cooperative Extension Office. Through the Master Forest Owner Program, Dick Fox was contacted by Hugh on July 13.

Coincidentally, our 1994 NYFOA Awardee, "Lfee" Signor had discovered his native American Chestnut trees were in bloom for the first time. Therefore, the very next day, July 14th, an effort to pollinate the Brazee Michigan chestnut tree with male catkins from the Signor natives was attempted, albeit, a little late and a lot uncertain (see the NY FOREST OWNER, Sep/Oct '93).

When Hugh purchased the tree seedlings, he fully appreciated the probability of blight infection and the inevitable outcome. However, he had some space in his city backyard; and just maybe.....

Hugh has enjoyed watching the trees



The Brazee Chestnut

grow, particularly the one which is five times the size of the other. There may even be a fall bonus - if the tree was fruitfully pollinated and the resident squirrel populations know less than we do.



Photo by John Herrington, Executive Director, American Chestnut Foundation

fungus that the host tree's defense mechanism of traumatic growth can contain the fungus and allow the life of a normal tree. Hypovirulence can be injected into a virulent fungus; it can also spread spontaneously.

Hypovirulence has controlled the blight in Europe; partly because, there, the chestnut is mostly an orchard tree; and because the blight has less genetic variation than here. We have native strains of hypovirulence; but under forest conditions the spread is slow and uncertain with various degrees of compatibility among them.

The pioneer waves of forest clearing, cultivation, logging, and fire, all favored the chestnut. An aggressive seeder and rapid grower, the chestnut took over open land left to spontaneous regeneration of forest. Populations almost entirely of this species do exist even though blighted. In full sunlight the sprouts are vigorous; some even grow to

flowering and bearing age before infection and dieback.

The species, *Castanea dentata* is not extinct nor doomed to extinction, nor even rare. Almost never in the recorded history of pathology has any pathogen wiped out an entire species. Millions, perhaps billions, are growing within their natural range and many thousands beyond.

Europe and the Near East can easily produce all the marrons we easterners care to purchase and eat. But we are not yet resigned to a magnificent forest tree becoming and remaining a short-lived, understory shrub. We are confident that by the year 2004, the American chestnut, *Castanea dentata*, will be well on the way to what it was in 1904, the year of the blight recognition.

Henry Kernan is a frequent contributor to NYFO, versed in world forestry and a very active Master Forest Owner.

About The Information Database:

What is NYFOA's 1-800-836-3566 Information Database all about? And how can it help you?

The Database is a compilation of data of interest to private woodland owners. It contains the names, addresses and phone numbers of: New York's Timber Harvesters, Private Consulting Foresters, Sawmills and Timber buyers, State Foresters, DEC Offices and all Cooperative Extension offices. It also contains a vast listing of reference material from many states.

If you are going to sell timber, a call to the 800 number can give you a list of many of the harvesters and timber buyers in your area. If you are looking for a forester to help you set up a management plan or mark your timber, or whatever, a call can give you all the information you need to select the right one for you....including a listing of the services each offers.

The information is searchable; which means if you want to sell a certain species only, the specific information of buyers who deal in which species is available. Also whether they buy delivered, stumpage or roadside. All categories have lots of information that can be isolated for specifics.

The reference material, while it ranges from tree diseases and pests to wildlife to songbirds to marketing your own timber, is a clearing house for information, a search for topics which results in available titles with costs and an address where you must write to obtain the reference material desired. Our Administrative Secretary, Debbie Gill, would be buried if we actually had all the material listed in the Database. Still, it is easy (and in most cases, inexpensive) to secure the desired titles.

When you call about reference material, Debbie not only does the topic search, she can give you the cost of various material, the number of pages in the booklets and she will send you a print-out. You have just been given thousands of reasons to use this service; how about one more?

Starting August 1 you will be able to get current stumpage prices as reported by the DEC. Current stumpage prices for all species of sawlogs in your specific area that includes the most common price and average price range, are available for a free phone call.

So why not start using the Database?

THE NORTH AMERICAN MAPLE PROJECT -

Keeping an Eye on Sugar Maple

Part I

By Douglas Allen

In the May issue of "Woodland Steward", Wes Suhr emphasized that *Acer saccharum* is valuable for many economic and aesthetic reasons. Its persistence and dominance on a variety of sites and in many plant communities throughout the northeast reflects on its ecological importance as well. Broadly speaking, the health of this species reflects the overall health of much of New York's forest land.

THE NORTH AMERICAN MAPLE PROJECT (NAMP)

Apprehension about the health of sugar maple arose during the late 1970s and continued throughout the 1980s. As a result, the United States Forest Service and the Canadian Forest Service initiated a long-term project in 1988 to monitor and evaluate the condition of this northern hardwood.

The cooperative effort currently involves ten states and four provinces; a total of 233 different stands and over 14,000 sugar maples. NAMP objectives are i) to detect and monitor annual changes in sugar maple crown and bole condition, ii) to determine if observed change in condition varies with



Figure 1. Evidence of crown dieback.

levels of sulfate and nitrate wet deposition, stand management (active sugarbush vs nonsugarbush) or initial stand condition and iii) to identify possible causes of poor crown condition.

NEW YORK'S PARTICIPATION

The 27 plots in our state are well dispersed and cover a range of geographic locations. Most were selected and established with the much appreciated cooperation of several forest owners (Table 1) and DEC foresters. Additional plots are located on state forests in Lewis, Otsego and Schoharie counties. Each year a field crew reexamines every tree in each of four canopy positions (suppressed, intermediate, codominant, dominant) on each plot. This includes approximately 600 sugar maples in sugarbushes and 1000 sugar maples in stands that are not actively managed for sap production. A plot is visited a minimum of two times each growing season to check for insect defoliation, evidence of late spring frost and other types of stress.

ADVANTAGES OF ANNUAL MONITORING

Repeated observations of permanently marked trees is necessary to reliably attribute changes in tree health (i.e., crown and bole condition) to the occurrence of different disturbances. Further, to assess accurately the impact of events such as insect defoliation or drought, one must account for the prior condition of the tree. It is only through a program such as NAMP where crews are trained and are required to

Table 1. Name and Location of New York Landowners Associated with the North American Maple Project (NAMP).

Name	Township	County
Harold Moore	Pitcairn	St. Lawrence
Wes Suhr	Fine	
Ted Smith	Croghan	Lewis
Glenn Altmire	Croghan	
Dan Durow	Napoli	Cattaraugus
Boyce McDivitt	Olean	
Van Munson	Allegany	
Richard Frame	Randolph	
Evelyn Root	Conewango	
Bob Adams	Napoli	
David Emery	Victor	Ontario
Jean Gillis	Victor	
John Hicks	Hopewell	
Community College of the Finger Lakes	Hopewell	
Albert Lipman	East Bloomfield	
Arnot Forest	Van Etten	Schuyler
Heiberg Forest	Preble	Cortland

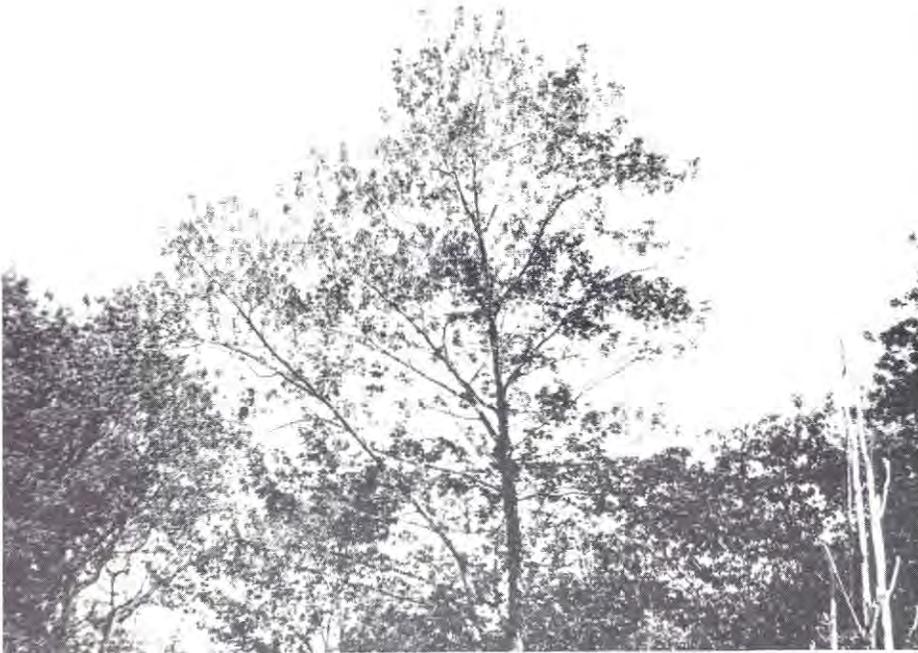


Figure 2. Example of high crown transparency. This is a red maple with a heavy seed crop.

follow standard evaluation procedures that we can obtain reliable background information on individual trees. The type of monitoring and evaluation done by NAMP also allows us to determine both the short and long-term effects of a stress or combination of stresses.

INDICATORS OF TREE HEALTH

The Program examines a variety of tree and site features in each plot. The observations that reflect tree condition most meaningfully, however, are extent of crown dieback, crown transparency, bole condition, and a general evaluation of tree vigor that factors in these three variables plus overall crown size and appearance.

DIEBACK refers to the occurrence of branch mortality that begins at the ends of branches and, over the course of a few years, may progress towards the base of the branch. Dieback usually begins in the upper crown (Fig. 1) and is estimated as a percentage of the whole crown.

TRANSPARENCY estimates the percentage of light passing through foliated portions of the crown (Fig. 2) and reflects changes in leaf size and foliage abundance. High transparency indicates a "thin" crown.

For our intents and purposes, we consider levels of crown dieback greater than 15% and crown transparencies greater than 25% as high. That is, they may be indicative of a tree under serious stress.

BOLE DAMAGE can be caused by a number of insects, micro-organisms and human activities.

NY FOREST OWNER

INTERPRETATION

Both dieback and high transparency are symptoms of stress. Whether or not a crown recovers depends on the extent, duration and nature of the stresses to which the tree is exposed. Dieback and increasing transparency represent the normal response of a tree to stressful conditions. The latter may result from a variety of biological (e.g., defoliation), physical (e.g., drought) or human imposed (e.g., skidder damage) events. A vivid example of a biological event that makes crowns look "thin" and generally unhealthy was the heavy seeding that occurred on red maple this summer throughout much of the northeast. Crowns of this species looked very sparse (that is, they were very transparent), offcolor and generally of low vigor (Fig. 2). This is a condition that typically occurs when this species produces abundant seed. Most of these trees will look fine next summer, assuming that they do not produce another bumper crop. Heavy seed production by sugar maple results in similar changes in crown appearance. Careful examination and monitoring of tree condition allows us to attribute changes such as those observed on red maple this summer to the correct cause and avoids speculation.

This article is 16th in the series of contributions provided by Doug Allen, Professor of Forest Entomology at SUNY/ESF. Part II of this article will focus on the results of the North American Maple Project in New York.

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NYFOA TAKES THE PLEDGE

On June 25, 1994 the New York Forest Owners Association at the 198th Board of Directors' Meeting in Room 214 Marshall Hall, State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry did adopt the following Private Property Pledge:

The NWOA Woodland Responsibility Code

A Pledge of Private Property Responsibility

As Woodland Owners we agree to:

1. Follow Best Management Practices when harvesting trees.
2. Show, by deed, a practical concern for other resources, including water, wildlife, soil, and natural beauty.
3. Share our knowledge of good forestry with others.
4. Use only "certified loggers" when available.
5. Open our land to hunting and other uses by the public, either for a fee or at no cost, when it is practical and at our discretion.
6. Manage our forest resource in a way that benefits many people, including that segment of society that makes a living harvesting and making products from trees.

In return, we expect:

1. Fair timber taxes, at the federal, state, and local levels.
2. Self-policing among mill owners against buying undervalued or improperly harvested wood.
3. Loggers to be the best they can be.
4. Professional forestry advice and educational opportunities from many sources.
5. Respect for private property rights.
6. A fair chance to compete in a free market.

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Property Rights, Taxes, and Right-To-Practice Forestry Rated Top 3 Concerns of Woodland Owners Coast to Coast

Each year for the past eight years the NATIONAL WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION had conducted a nationwide poll among its 27 affiliated state woodland owners associations to identify and rank the ten issues that influence their private forestry decisions.

The other issues making the TOP TEN PRIORITIES include: 4) The promotion of BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES, 5) LANDOWNER LIABILITY stemming from allowing hikers and hunters on private woodlands, 6) the ability to MANAGE WETLANDS FOR FORESTRY (including a reasonable definition of what is a wetland), and 7) continued support for the FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.



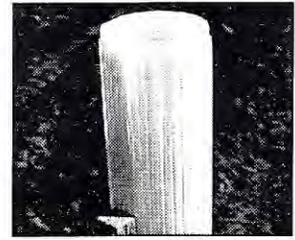
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to think of all of the benefits you could enjoy from having a pond or a lake on your own property. This idea could become a reality if the right conditions prevail. From our experience it normally requires favorable watershed conditions, good site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

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LEGISLATION

By David J. Colligan

A major revision of Section 480-a of the Real Property Tax Law was almost passed by the New York State Legislature in its recently-concluded regular session. This law may come up again in the extraordinary session tentatively planned for early Fall. If so, now is the time to write your State Senator and your New York State Assemblyperson to offer your opinions and view regarding the proposed revisions.

Several aspects of the existing Section 480-a Law are objectionable and have caused the law to become very controversial. A new 480-a law has been considered with numerous proposals to "cure" the defects in the existing 480-a law. As your legislative liaison, I strongly urge that you write your State Senators and State Assemblypersons to inform them as to whether you favor a new 480-a law which would contain one or more of the following provisions: 1). State reimbursement of local assessment districts, including school districts; 2). Eligibility for woodlots smaller than 50 acres; 3). Relaxation of some of the "micro management" requirements so that broader forestry and stewardship objectives can be met; 4). Simplify oversight requirements; 5). Allow for recreational leasing and other non-conflicting uses of the property; and 6). Your feelings towards codifying open space restrictions similar to conservation easements as a requirement for subscription under the new program.

A 480-a law debate is a complex one. However, as landowners, we cannot allow the State Legislature to pass a law without our input. Clearly, the opportunity exists for a fair and equitable new law which would foster the goals of landowners, local municipalities, and State public policy while reducing the overhead costs of owning our properties. Please write today and let your legislators know your position regarding this important piece of legislation.

Special Tree Farm News

Although 1993 NYS Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year Erwin and Polly Fullerton of NYFOA's Southeastern Adirondack Chapter were nudged out of representing the Northeastern Region for the National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year, they were deservedly recognized as First Runnerup for the region as announced by Robert S. Simpson, Director, American Tree Farm System. Congratulations!

The New York State Tree Farm Committee will cosponsor the first year's membership of a certified Tree Farmer to join NYFOA as announced by Sue Kiester, Chairperson. Thank you!



Wood Duck

GREAT XMAS GIFTS

TREE FARM TREATS Cookbooks will be available at appropriate meetings for \$6. 50. They may be ordered direct from the following for \$8 (Please make checks payable to the N. Y. State Tree Farm Committee.):

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Harriet Hamilton, 8785 Schribner Rd., Wayland, N.Y. 14572

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ON LOVING AND LOGGING

By Jane Sorensen Lord

"Yeh, here it is!"

Gordon and I had arrived and settled at Dick Fox's house the Friday before the NYFOA Annual Spring Meeting. We had not received our issue of the magazine [THE NY FOREST OWNER, May/June '94; 18]; so Dick handed Gordon a copy which he opened immediately.

"Dick, this isn't a poem. It's a song; Jane knows it." My husband handed me the magazine and I scanned the page and read the verse.

I first heard Odetta sing it while at Skidmore in a cafe in the fall of 1960, I bought the album, have it still. "Odetta and Larry" sing on a clear red thirty-three. But Odetta sings this song alone. And the dust cover explains that the song "... has great sociological impact. Banned from the networks for political reasons.....controversial impeachment of the government bureaucracy." M-mmmm.

The song reminds me of my father. He loved to sing, formally in public, around campfires, and in the car on trips in his strong, clear tenor voice. He sang (and he taught us) songs about Dartmouth and educating the Indian, about America, the land, her people, and their work on railroads, in the fields, and on the rivers, We sang hymns, ballads, and show tunes. I don't know why he didn't know this song. It fits in with so many others.

When our Tree Farm was harvested for timber, I met my first logger. Walt, the head of the crew, intercepted me and two friends who were visiting from Boston. We had bushwacked up the hill towards the sounds of saws and crashing trees in order to see the crew at work. After a gigantic boom, we stopped down grade and sat on a fresh stump.

Walt was hauling a load on the skidder and stopped short when he saw us.

"Are you crazy? What are you doing here? You could get killed from flying branches; this is a hard hat area!"

"We just wanted to see you cut down a tree," I meekly offered.

He jumped out of the cab and took out the biggest chain saw I had ever seen.

"Stand over there." He cut a notch and dropped a 20" dbh-oak. And then another, and yet a third.

"That will be my first haul on Monday. I'm carrying my last hitch, now. Get on the

skidder and I'll drive you down."

He lowered the blade, then raised it and my friends to the hood where they hung on to the front supports and I rode half in and out of the cab, hanging on for dear life. We survived.

After that every Friday when I went to my land to see what was happening, Walt conducted me around the land, smushed inside the cab behind the skidder seat while proudly showing me what they had done. He would stop here and there and make me get out and part look at things of interest- views, exceptional stumps, strange mushrooms, or rare plants. He was a sixth generation logger and part Iroquois with the family name Wormoth

which means "tall timber". He told me I could live off my land by eating only the plants and trees and showed me many. He fired my interest in herbs and medicinal plants.

One time after my skidder ride, while we drank and sat on a log at the landing. I told him I wanted to sing him a song. His eyes crinkled and twinkled in amusement as I sang; and, when I finished, he exclaimed, "Jane, I don't know a logger who doesn't love that song. You are almost as good as Odetta. And I've never heard it on a work site! Thanks!"

"Yeah, Dick. It's a song. It's called "The Frozen Logger". Wanna hear it?" He nodded.

*As I sat down one evening, within a small cafe.
A forty year old waitress to a man these words did say:*

*"I see that you're a logger and not just a common bum,
'cause nobody but a logger stirs his coffee with his thumb."*

*My lover was a logger; there's none like him today.
If you'd pour whiskey on it, he would eat a bale of hay.*

*Now he never shaved his whiskers from off his horny hide,
He'd drive them in with a hammer and bite them off inside.*

*My lover came to see me upon one wintry day.
He took me in his firm embrace and broke three vertebrae.*

*He kissed me when we parted so hard that he broke my jaw.
I could not speak to tell him, he forgot his mackinaw.*

*And so my lover left me, and homeward he did go,
just sauntering bravely Northward at forty-eight below.*

*Now the weather it tried to freeze him; it tried its level best.
At a hundred degrees below zero, he buttoned up his vest.*

*Now it froze clear through to China. It froze the stars above.
At a thousand degrees below zero, it froze my logger love.*

*And so my logger left me. And to this cafe I come.
And here I wait 'til I see someone stir his coffee with his thumb.*

Dick was sitting on my left so I could not see his face. Gordon said he was smiling and that his eyes twinkled.

Jane is a Tree Farmer, a Master Forest Owner, and serves as the Communications Liaison to the New York State Tree Farm Committee.



The Marketplace

ATTENTION small woodlot owners/part time loggers - For FARMi winches, VALBY chippers, choker chains, hand tools, or equipment you have always wanted and did not know where to find, write Hewitt's Hill Haven, Locke, NY 13092 or call (315) 497-1266 (Before 8AM or after 6PM).

NYFOA SPECIALS

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Sep 10: CFA; Annual Meeting; Norman Richards Tree Farm, 40 years (914) 586-3054

Sep 10: NFC; 10AM; Woodswalk Letchworth State Park; (716)632-5862

Sep 17,18: SAC: 2nd Annual Forestry Expo; Warren Co. Airport; N. Glens Falls; (518)893-2236.

Sep 24: WFL; 10AM; Woodswalk (716) 367-2849 eve.

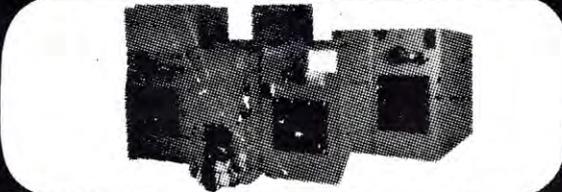
Sep 29: CNY; General Meeting; Liverpool Library; (315)673-3691

Sep 30: Oct NYFOA FALL MEETING; BOONVILLE, NY; See Page 8

Oct 8: NAC; Soils Tour; Dave Daut & Gerald Smith; L. Champlain west to the Adirondack Mountains.

Oct 12, 13: SUNY-ESF; Timber Security Workshop; Bradford, PA; contact SUNY -ESF (315)470- 6565

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