

The New York

FOREST OWNER

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THE NEW YORK
FOREST OWNER

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Master Forest Owners



Panel answers questions on RPTL Section 480a. (See page 4.)

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Photos by Gary Goff.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was a beautiful fall day with the leaves just starting to reach their full color. As folks started to arrive, it was obvious that a good time was going to be had by all. That's right. I'm talking about **NYFOA's Fall Meeting** hosted by **THRIFT** in Boonville on September 30th and October 1st. Eighty-eight people enjoyed the exceptional, all-you-can-eat buffet on Friday night at the Hulbert House. After dinner, three excellent speakers provided the program. Saturday, the skies were overcast and the weather somewhat threatening, however, the enthusiasm of the Tour Leaders and eager members was not dampened. Unfortunately, the mill tour of Lyons Falls Pulp and Paper Company was canceled at the last minute. Initially, some folks were disappointed, however, after participating in two of the three remaining tours, everyone I talked to expressed their delight. I want to take this opportunity to personally thank Harold Petrie, Affiliate Chair, and all of the volunteers that worked so hard to make this year's fall meeting such an interesting and enjoyable experience. The insert photo is of Randy Kerr, Tour Leader for the Lewis County Public Lands tour, with several NYFOA members listening intently to his every word. As is always the case, meeting and talking to other members of NYFOA at these events is as pleasurable as the event itself. During a conversation with Jill and Barry Cornell Friday evening before dinner, they mentioned that they had read my message in the last edition of the Forest Owner regarding the successful fledging of ten Bluebirds. They told me that they were successful in fledging four American Kestrels (the mini Falcon), also once known as the Sparrow Hawk. Barry indicated that he had plans for a nesting box and asked me if I'd be interested in a copy. I told him I would; and what do you think? I received it in the mail the following Monday! Thanks Barry for your thoughtfulness and promptness. If any member would like a copy of the plan for a Kestrel box, drop me a note, I'll be happy to send a copy.

In way of an update, the Leadership Retreat scheduled for September 9th and 10th at Dodge Pond had to be canceled because of scheduling conflicts and prior commitments. The work done by Dawn Howard of the Northern Adirondacks Chapter on such short notice was extraordinary. I want to thank Dawn for all of her hard work and apologize for having to cancel the meeting. It will be

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*Randy Kerr (c.), Lewis County Forester, discusses some history and management.
Photo by President Don Wagner.*

discussed at our next Board Meeting and hopefully rescheduled when more of our leaders are capable of attending.

Since my September 10th Saturday was free, I took the opportunity to attend the **Catskill Forest Association's Annual Meeting** which included a tour of Norm Richards' Tree Farm. [see page 12] It was a beautiful fall day in the Catskill Mountains. Norm received recognition for his forty years as a Tree Farmer. Congratulations, Norm. The hard work you and your family have put in over the years is readily evident. I particularly enjoyed the view of Norm's two ponds beyond his open meadow.

I also attended a meeting on Thursday evening, September 29th, sponsored by the Central New York Chapter in Liverpool. The guest speaker was Dr. Paul L. Manion, Professor - Forest Pathology, at Syracuse ES & F. I can't remember when I enjoyed a presentation more. Dr. Manion's expertise has always been of interest to me. I think for the first time that I can remember, I heard a plausible explanation for maple decline. Sorry that more of you didn't have the opportunity to participate in this presentation but there is good news. Dr. Manion has agreed to lead a woodwalk sharing his knowledge along the way. This event will be announced in the magazine when scheduled by the Central New York Chapter. I strongly recommend that you don't miss this woodwalk

On a personal note, the TSI work under

SIP for 45 acres of my woodlot was just completed along with a vehicle recreation trail. The TSI was a lot of hard work. I appreciate the efforts of my Consulting Forester, Wayne Tripp. Watching the road being constructed was a real joy for me. The excavating machine used to remove rocks and stumps, and to grade and level was phenomenal. The skills of the operator were also exceptional. For anyone that's tried to put a road into rough terrain in the Adirondack Mountains knows what a chore this task really is. Wouldn't you know it, almost immediately after the road work was complete, with the exception of some fill, the monsoon started. I haven't been able to get to my woodlot since the rains ended so I don't know how much erosion, if any, occurred to my newly constructed road. I'll let you all know in my next President's Message the outcome of the forty days and nights of rain on my road project.

I want to take this opportunity to welcome all of the new members that have recently joined our Association. If you participate in the Association activities I know you will not be disappointed. Lastly, in almost every President's Message I talk about the importance of recruiting new members. Have you recruited your new member yet?

P. S. For those of you who saw the September/October magazine the FROG was the one on the left.

NY's Master Forest Owner COVERTS Program

"The power of the program is that it comes to you. Everyone tends to procrastinate, and to have someone come to me and schedule a visit was what it took to get moving on my woodlot plan. Thanks for the program!"

"The visit by the Master Forest Owner made me realize I was uncertain about my goals and had to give more thought to what I wanted to accomplish".

"The Master Forest Owner was pleasant and helpful. I have had additional contacts with him as a result of his enthusiastic assistance."

These are just a few of the positive things participant forest owners are saying about NY's Master Forest Owner/COVERTS Program. A mail survey of forest owners, who had been visited by Master Forest Owner (MFO) volunteers between 1991 and 1993, revealed this and much more valuable information about the effectiveness of the program.

The goal of New York's Master Forest Owner/COVERTS Program is to provide private, nonindustrial forest owners with the information and encouragement necessary to manage their forest holdings to enhance ownership satisfaction. Since 1991, over 100 qualified volunteers from 39 counties have been certified in the program. Over the past three years the MFOs have visited a reported minimum 325 neighbor forest owners who own a total of 26,750 acres. A typical visit consists of a half-day walk through the forest owner's woods with the purpose to assist him/her with finding sources of information that may be of interest to the forest owners. MFOs are not trained to perform management activities or give professional advice, but rather they are there to listen to the forest owner's concerns and questions, and offer advice as to sources of assistance based on their training and personal experience. As an indication of the value of the visit, respondents to the previously mentioned survey rated the value of the information received from the MFOs a 4.2 on a 5-point scale.

In addition to the on-site visits, MFOs participate in numerous other forestry educational activities and events in their communities. These activities may be as simple as answering a question over the phone, or as involved as hosting a day-long workshop in cooperation with their County Cornell Cooperative Extension Office, re-



David Briggs, President NY Assessors Association, provides some background to the Master Forest Owners prior to the 480A discussion.

gional DEC Office, and County ASCS/SCS Office. MFOs also routinely invite others to visit their forest holdings. NY's volunteers have increasingly been involved in State-wide educational events such as the Boonville Woodsmen's Field Days and NY State Society of American Foresters annual meetings. Several of NY's MFOs participated in a 1994 national conference on forest stewardship held in Nebraska City, NE, sponsored by the USDA Forest Service to investigate continuing opportunities to involve volunteers in forestry educational programs. All told, NY's MFOs have been involved in a minimum reported 390 such activities or events in the past two years!

New York is one of about a dozen states nationwide that have similar programs based on volunteers. The first such programs were started a decade ago in Vermont and Connecticut and were co-sponsored by The Ruffed Grouse Society and Cooperative Extension. These programs are called "COVERTS" (pronounced like a jar "cover"), because a strong emphasis is placed on the creation and maintenance of wildlife habitat through wise forest management. A "covert" is good ruffed grouse habitat and is symbolic of the importance of habitat to all wildlife. New York's program was initially funded by The National Wild Turkey Federation, The Ruffed Grouse Society, and the NY Forest Stewardship Program, but is now funded only by the latter two organizations.

Even though the forestry profession has

long recognized the value of educating private nonindustrial forest owners to ensure continued forest productivity, forest owner satisfaction, and environmental protection, statistics indicate that there is much more to do. For instance, only 3% of Pennsylvania's forest owners have a written management plan, and less than 20% of those who harvest timber use the services of a professional natural resources manager. In NY State, with over 500,000 forest owners, probably less than 30% of all forest holdings are purposefully managed for any objective. As a result, not only is long-term productivity sacrificed; the costs are incalculable in terms of environmental degradation and, perhaps most importantly, ownership satisfaction.

Results of the 1993 survey (usable response rate of 63%) of forest owners visited by NY's MFOs, indicated that one-on-one peer counselling motivates forest owners to make informed decisions and take appropriate action. For example, within 2 years of the visit and as a results of the visit:

—34% of the forest owners prepared a written management plan and 18% plan to do so

—60% of the forest owners met with a professional forester, and another 20% plan to do so

—32% of the forest owners implemented wildlife management practices and 21% plan to do so

—42% of the forest owners sought out more information on forest management,

and another 7% plan to do so.

The success of this volunteer program is grounded in the power of "peer" counselling. Knowledgeable and experienced forest owner neighbors can interact as unbiased peers with less experienced forest owners. Volunteers are less likely to use forestry terminology and jargon than professional foresters, and inexperienced forest owners may be less intimidated by their own lack of knowledge. In addition, volunteers not tied to the forestry profession may garner more trust from owners than professional foresters. This program cannot single-handedly be the magic cure-all to motivate all of NY's forest owners to establish management plans for their forests, but it is one more tool that effectively reaches a few hundred more!

Each spring the program director Gary Goff, solicits names of candidate MFOs from current MFOs, DEC Foresters, Cornell Cooperative Extension Agents, The NY Forest Owners Association, NY Tree Farm Committee, and officers of various NY forestry organizations. An invitation letter and application form is sent to the candidates and about 35 to 40 applicants are selected (with the assistance of a committee) from the pool of returned applications. Candidates need not necessarily even own forest land, but they must show a sincere interest in working with neighbor forest owners toward the goal of improving forest stewardship. There is no set pattern to who becomes an MFO. They truly represent the gambit of your neighbors, including farmers, retirees, school teachers, businessmen, bus drivers, and self-employed trades people.

All MFOs must attend a 3-day workshop training in mid-September, held at Cornell's Arnot Teaching and Research Forest just south of Ithaca, to become certified. The training is given by a wide variety of professionals from Cornell University, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, NY Forest Owners Association, NY Institute of Consulting Foresters, The Catskill Forest Association, Coastal Lumber Co., and local timber harvesting firms. A combination of field trip exercises and inside classroom lectures are used to cover topics including: forest ecology, forest economics, communication and educa-



Neil Lamson, USFS, & Crop Tree Management exercise.

tion techniques, and sources of information on forestry programs and assistance. MFOs consistently rate the training as outstanding and one of the best educational events of their lives.

This past September the training was a refresher course for MFOs previously certified over the past three years. It was attended by 36 MFO volunteers and 17 speakers. Topics this year included: effective facilitation, forestry practices for wildlife management, presentations by MFOs, forest land taxation, agroforestry opportunities, ecosystem management, strategies to improve audience recruitment, crop tree management, song birds and land management (including calling in a barred owl that evening), and issues and opportunities for NY's MFO Program. Several presentations received "outstanding" evaluation ratings. A principal reason for holding the refresher course was to reinvigorate the attendees and apparently it was successful as the overall program received a "reinvigoration" rating of 4.4 on a 5-pt. scale! The MFOs told of some great and revealing experiences such as the MFO couple that were further motivated to do more this past year upon hearing the trials and tribulations one MFO related to the class at the last year's training. Another MFO told of the confused fellow that called him up to schedule lunch be-

cause the local paper had advertised the MFO Program as "the next best thing to a free lunch!" But the bottom line is that the MFOs provide a free, no-obligation service that forest owners find worthwhile and the MFOs also find the work personally rewarding.

MFOs are encouraged to establish working relationships with local professional resource managers including Cornell Cooperative Extension County Agents, NYS DEC Foresters and Wildlife Biologists, Private Consulting Foresters, County ASCS/SCS personnel, and others involved in various ways with forest management such as local land trusts and environmental organizations. Such mutual relationships allow the MFOs to keep abreast of assistance programs, local conditions, and be involved in various educational events. In addition, MFOs occasionally hold woodwalks at their forests for other MFOs to share experiences and ideas. The program Director also sends out mailings of relevant publications and notices of coming events to inform MFOs of advances in forest management.

Any one interested in contacting an MFO can acquire a listing of MFOs from their Cornell Cooperative Extension County Office or NYS DEC Regional Forestry Office. Any one who would like a flyer on the program or is interested in becoming an MFO volunteer should contact **Gary Goff**, Program Director, Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853 — ph. 607-255-2824.

.....a survey rated MFO information value — 4.2 on a 5 point scale.

The Forest's Enchanted Carrot: American Ginseng

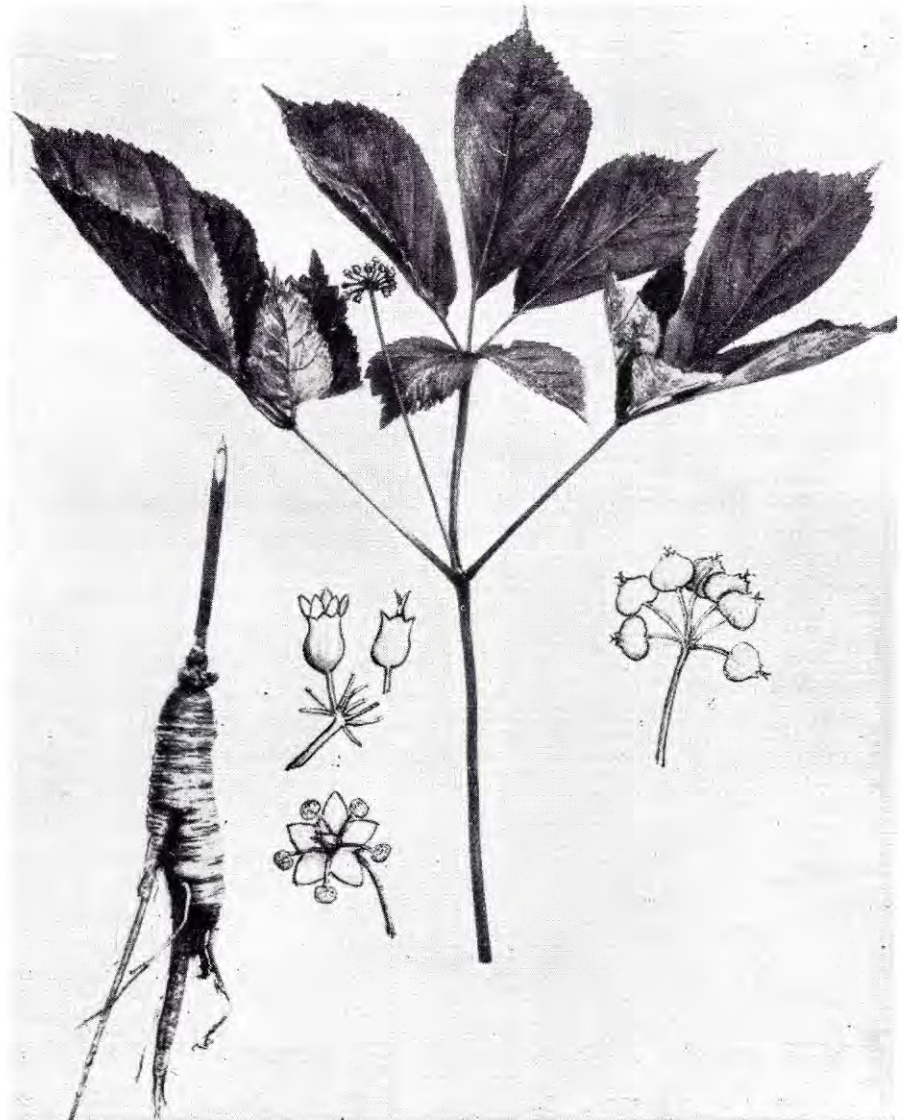
By Donald H. O'Shea

Unlike many of the wild herbaceous plants sought out by today's forager, wild American ginseng is not to be found in the fields, roadsides or urban lots. *Panax quinquefolius* will flourish only in rich woodland soil in the shelter of hardwood trees, and because of man's relentless pursuit of its root, especially during the last 200-300 years, ginseng has retreated even deeper into the forest.

Panax quinquefolius means "five-leaved cure-all" - an accurate description of the plant's exaggerated reputation as a panacea. Its Asian counterpart, *Panax schinseng*, combines "cure-all" or "panacea" with the "human root" or "manlike" description of its occasional likeness to the human form.

Both the Chinese and the Native Americans attached special healing and rejuvenating powers to the man-shaped root, believing the plant to be a divine gift from heaven to man. The association of the plant's appearance to its curative powers, is an example of the doctrine of signatures, a theory that had a substantial following among early healers. Just as medieval physicians confidently used liverleaf (*Hepatica nobilis*) to treat liver disorders because they perceived the shape and color of the plant's leaves to resemble a human liver, other healers saw ginseng's man-shaped root as a sign that it would cure some (or all) of the afflictions of mankind. It was used to treat everything from anemia and asthma to kidney stones, digestive disorders, earache and back pain. Some believed it increased fertility, while others trusted it as a contraceptive. It was, and still is, used as an aphrodisiac and a stress-relieving tonic. Many herbalists now tend to shy away from the more extravagant claims of ginseng's healing powers, but still value the root's use as a stimulant and a daily tonic to prevent stress.

There are a few other northern plants in the Ginseng Family (*Araliaceae*) such as bristly sarsaparilla (*Aralia hispida*) and spike-nard (*Aralia racemosa*), and there are, of course, other plants with compound leaves made up of five leaflets, such as the cinquefoils and Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*). When comparing these plants with American ginseng, there may be some confusion, due to similarities in the Latin or English names or because of a few shared physical characteristics. *Panax quinquefolius* has some unique characteristics, however, that allows it to be readily identified - especially when the entire plant is examined. American ginseng has an erect stem, grows 8-24 inches tall and has three large, com-



Branch, root, flower, and berries of American ginseng.

pound leaves, each consisting of five thin, stalked, ovate leaflets, and each leaf is positioned atop the long stem. The leaflets have toothed margins, are pointed at the tips, and rounded or narrow at the bottom. Of the five leaflets that make up the horse chestnut-shaped leaves, the upper three are the largest. The tiny (one-eighth inch) greenish-white or greenish-yellow flowers appear in late spring, and are borne in a single spherical cluster (the umbels of the Ginseng Family are rounder than those of the parsley family, *Umbelliferae*, for example). The umbel of inconspicuous flowers, which rises above the leaves, often carries an odor similar to lily of the valley. The fruits, ripening to bright red berries, are produced in late summer and drop in the fall. The leaves turn yellow earlier than most in the forest, making the plant more conspicu-

ous at "harvest time."

Ginseng's perennial root varies in size and shape according to its age and growth pattern. Its length may vary from 2-3 inches to 4-6 inches or more, when mature, and about 1/2 to 1 inch thick. It is a white to brownish-white, fleshy, somewhat flexible, gnarled carrot, usually becoming forked after its second year. Each fall, the root produces a bud, from which next year's stem will grow. From year to year, these buds leave scars in a spiraling pattern on the section joining the stem with the root. These scars form a sort of chronological map, not unlike the growth rings of a tree. By counting the bud scars, the age of the root can be determined even as it is being dug. Immature roots (less than six years old) should be left undisturbed.

To dig or not to dig; that is the question. Assuming that ginseng has been located, there are several factors that a would-be root hunter may want to consider before setting out to harvest the "enchanted carrot." First of all, ginseng root is not always easy to dig - it can not be simply plucked from the earth like a garden variety carrot from sandy soil, and to be of commercial value, it must remain intact when it is dug. It is the shape of the root, and the root hairs and "appendages" - the branched parts of the root together with its age, that largely determines the commercial value of an individual root. The more the root resembles the human form, the more desirable it will be, for it is the man-like figure that signals special powers - the magic of ginseng - to those who attach to the plant its traditional attributes: good health, long life, manliness and power. The root must be properly cared for after it is dug. If it is not carefully washed and dried and the leaf stem immediately removed, or if it is harvested at the wrong time of the year, it will be inferior, even if it was a prime root to begin with. Improperly dried roots will mold, as will those with any green material left on them. Dreams of quick

For \$300 and 200 roots to the pound, a small patch is hardly a gold mine.

riches may be shattered when one learns how many roots it takes to make a pound. According to Doug Schmid of the Albany DEC office, that number has increased rather dramatically in the last few years. Even before the roots apparently began getting smaller, an average 120-140 wild roots were needed to make a pound; the figure is closer to 200/lb., now. At a current estimated value of about \$300 per pound (\$60 for cultivated ginseng) a small patch is hardly a gold mine. Then there are the rules and regulations, to consider. These will be touched on only briefly, here, but anyone seriously considering digging ginseng is advised to contact DEC, first. **Doug Schmid** from the Bureau of Forest Resource Management Office is the contact person. His number is: (518) 457-7370.

Ginseng is a protected species, and the regulation of its harvest, use and sale varies from state to state, in accordance with mandates from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The plant has been declared a "threatened species" in at least 31 states, but not in New York State. In this state, ginseng has been listed as "exploitably vulnerable" i.e.; "likely to become threatened if causal factors

continue." Many of the regulations in New York State, apply only to dealers - those who buy, as well as sell, ginseng. Any person who buys the roots must obtain a permit, and any roots sold outside of the state must be "certified" to verify that they were picked in season from mature plants. Weighing the roots and tabulating statistical information is part of the certification process, as well. There are rules for "diggers," too, but the regulations are straightforward and easy to follow (but extremely important!):

1) Dig only on your own property, unless you have permission. Permission is necessary to dig on public lands, as well (and difficult to obtain - permits to dig ginseng on state forest lands, are not, and are not expected to become, available).

2) Dig roots only during the harvest season. New York's season runs from September 1 through November 30.

3) Dig only mature roots. Individuals are not expected to count bud scars to ascertain the age of the root - this would be subjective and unreliable. Check, instead, the plant itself. If it has three compound leaves made up of five leaflets on each, and it has ripe berries, the plant should be mature. (If the bud scars can be seen, counting them may help to establish the root's age more precisely).

4) Plant the seeds! Regulations require that the berries from the uprooted plant, be sown within 50 feet of its original growing site. The berries should be covered with no more than an inch of soil. This will offer some protection from bird and mammal marauders, while mimicking natural propagation (the fallen berries would be covered with only a light layer of leaf mold and forest debris).

It goes without saying that the stewardship role assumed by the forest owner applies to all life in his forest. If he is fortunate enough to have a ginseng patch, he will do well to appreciate its intrinsic value as much as its commercial value, and realize the importance of its continuing existence. American ginseng's Asian counterpart is all but extinct in the wild, so rare that a prime wild root may sell for thousands of dollars. Cultivated plants may continue to sustain the trade, but the wild ginseng, once gone, takes with it the magic and mystery of the root that cures all ills.

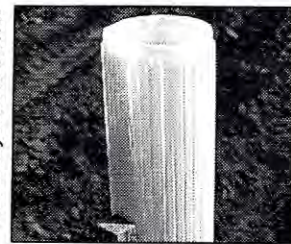
Don O'Shea retired from the New York State Department of Correctional Services in 1990. He has a lifelong interest in trees, wild plants, nature and gardening and is both a volunteer Master Forest Owner and Cornell-certified Master Gardener.

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THE NORTH AMERICAN MAPLE PROJECT

Results from New York's Plots — Part II

By Douglas Allen

In the Sept./Oct. issue, readers were introduced to the North American Maple Project (NAMP) and the New York landowners who cooperate in this endeavor. The current article highlights results from the 27 woodlots and sugarbushes that comprise New York's portion of the program.

Crown Condition

One of the most meaningful ways to view results is to look at yearly changes in the proportion of overstory sugar maples (trees in dominant and codominant canopy positions) that have what NAMP considers to be high levels of crown dieback (greater than 15%) or high crown transparency (greater than 25%).

Except for sugarbush maples in 1992 and 1993, 6% or less of the overstory trees that we monitor in New York exhibited high levels of dieback during each of the past six years (Fig. 1). This figure increased to approximately 9% in 1992 and 1993 for maples in active sugarbushes. The 361 overstory sugar maples monitored in sugarbushes consistently have had slightly higher levels of dieback compared to the 612 overstory maples in nonsugarbush stands.

For the past two years, the proportion of overstory maples in the high dieback categories in NY's sugarbush plots (9%, Fig. 2) has exceeded the average for NAMP sugarbushes as a whole, but it has been less than the NAMP average for nonsugarbushes.

Thirty-four percent of the overstory maples in both sugarbushes and

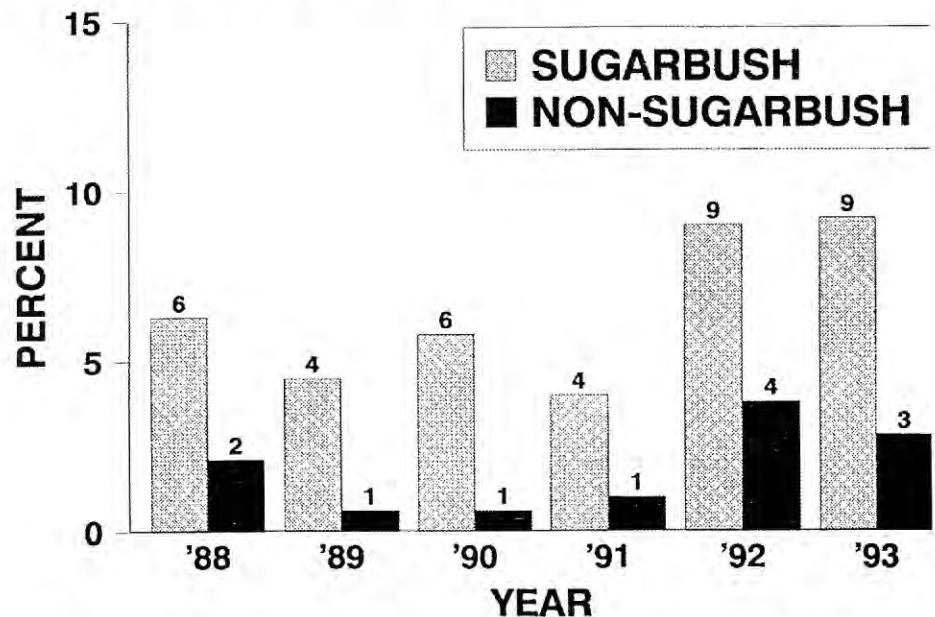


Figure 1. Annual percentage of the overstory sugar maples in NY's NAMP plots rated in high (i.e., > 15%) crown dieback classes.

nonsugarbushes exhibited high crown transparency in 1988, but transparency decreased substantially thereafter (i.e., crown density improved), until the last two years when a modest increase occurred.

The proportion of NY maples with high levels of transparency in 1993 was greater than the NAMP average for sugarbushes, but the NY average in the nonsugarbush stands was lower than average crown transparency for the overall project.

Factors Associated With Crown Condition Changes

High crown transparency in 1988 was caused by extensive pear thrips damage. Very little dieback was associated with this outbreak and within two years (Fig. 2; 1988 through 1990) crown density improved markedly.


The slight increase in the proportion of NY's overstory sugar maples with high levels of both dieback and transparency during 1992 and 1993 can be attributed to forest tent caterpillar defoliation at a few sites and bole damage resulting from forest management (thinning) activities in two stands. In general, the condition of sugar maple crowns in New

York's NAMP plots indicates that the trees we monitor are healthy.

Sugar Maple Mortality

Now that we are six years into the NAMP project, it is possible to determine the extent of sugar maple mortality since 1988. The figures given below are conservative estimates, because they include live trees that were cut for management purposes (salvage cuts from unusually severe storm damage, thinning, etc.) as well as those lost to natural mortality. Eventually, we will distinguish between the two sources of "mortality", but at this early stage of the analysis they remain combined.

For NAMP as a whole, the average annual mortality of upper canopy sugar maple for all sites was approximately equal for both sugarbush (0.8%) and nonsugarbush (0.7%) stands. Average annual mortality in New York sugarbushes (1.8%) was a little more than twice that of the NAMP average for



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observed ... are in
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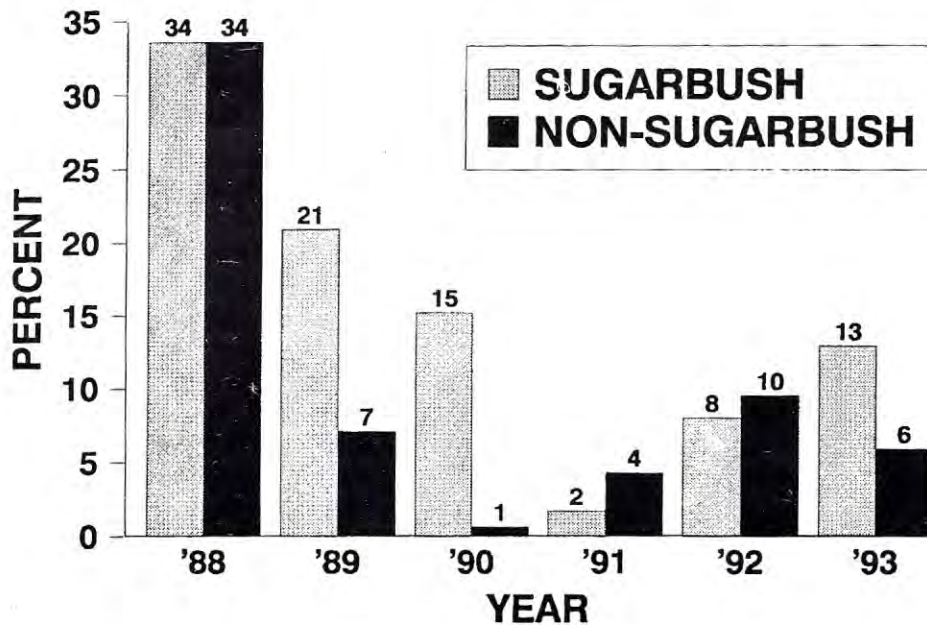


Figure 2. Annual percentage of the overstory sugar maples in NY's NAMP plots rated in high (i.e. > 25%) crown transparency classes.

sugarbushes. This difference is explained largely by the fact that during the past six years one entire plot in NY was clearcut because of excessive ice damage and two

plots were thinned heavily. Basically, the natural mortality of overstory trees that we have observed in NAMP (including NY) has been low and well within the

range of what one would expect in a healthy forest.

Sugar Maple Health Confirmed

At any point in time throughout the range of sugar maple, one can find forests where maple crowns appear to be deteriorating and (or) where abnormally high mortality occurs. The agent or agents involved frequently can be identified, but in some instances the cause is unknown. Results from NAMP indicating that the sugar maples observed by this project generally are in good condition have been corroborated to one degree or another by independent surveys in Ontario, Vermont, Wisconsin, the Canadian Forest Service Acid Rain National Early Warning System, and the U.S. Forest Service Forest Health Monitoring Program.

This is the 17th in the series of articles provided by Dr. Allen, Professor of Forest Entomology at SUNY/ESF. Reprints of Part 1 of the NAMP article and others of the series may be obtained by request.

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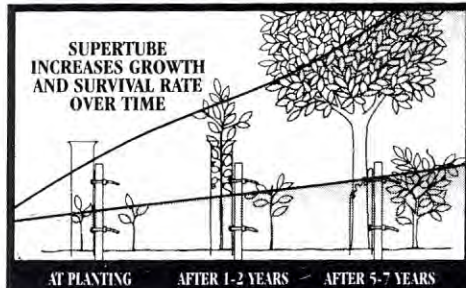
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CHAPTER/AFFILIATES

SOUTHERN TIER

The Baxter Tree Farm in Sanford was the site of a full day Forestry/ Christmas Tree Workshop on August 27. Tours were conducted of SIP-funded access trails, a clover/fescue wildlife planting, and an improved sugar bush. The Xmas tree plantation of 250,000 trees was also toured. Vendors and numerous speakers made the day a valuable learning experience.

THRIFT

Our members are gearing-up for winter and reflecting on the events of the past year—a busy one.

The event that makes us proud was hosting NYFOA's Annual Fall Meeting; and the joyous time we had at Hulbert House in Boonville. The food, our speakers, the fellowship, and the tours provided a wonderful time for all.

Thanks to all NYFOA members, speakers, and workers who made it possible. A special note of congratulations to our President, Harold Petrie.

NIAGARA FRONTIER

September 10th fourteen members enjoyed a pleasant walk in the woods of Letchworth State Park. We visited a plantation, an old growth forest, and a site in succession. As a bonus we learned something of various mushrooms.

November 19th our chapter will visit the Valor Lumber Company Plant in Sandusky. Valor ships semi-finished lumber around the globe to be used for flooring, furniture, musical instruments, etc. Valor received the EXPORTER OF THE YEAR Award in May 1994 from the Small Business Administration. We will visit the Company's Dimension Mill. Valor uses every part of a tree; nothing is wasted. Call R. Preston, 716-632-5862

WESTERN FINGER LAKES

September 24th, Dave & Jo Bott hosted a woodswalk on their property; Bruce Robinson led the group of over thirty people. Bruce had marked a section for timber harvest and he reviewed the process. We had the pleasure of seeing wildlife shrubs, new plantings, and a breathtaking view. Bruce's program not only entertained and informed our members, but engaged the attention of three deer for a while.

November 1st, there will be a general



Sept. 24, Dick Fox, Lee Signor, & Tom Hewitt (r) represent the Cayuga Chapter for National Hunting & Fishing Day at Auburn's WAL-MART. Photo by Tim Noga, Secretary, Federation of Conservation Clubs.

meeting at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Center on Highland Avenue in Rochester. The topic will be Tree Identification (native and naturalized, non-ornamental). Jim Peek, Assistant Regional Forester from NYS DEC Region 8 will make the presentation. **November 12th**, NYS DEC Senior Forester Mark Keister will do a follow-up of Tree Identification in the field at Mendon Ponds Park. Phone (716)367-2849.

NORTHERN ADIRONDACK

On August 6th, about 20 Tree Farm/NAC members met at the Lake Alice Game Management Area, near Chazy, for an in-depth look at wetland restoration and management followed by a barbeque at Point Au Roche State Park.

Eric Derleth of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (F&WS) explained the "Partners for Wildlife" Wetlands Restoration Program with an on-going project in a formerly drained, wet field. The engineered 700' dike will flood about 7 acres with an average water depth of 18 inches suitable for wetland habitat. Adjacent land will be managed as grassland to attract waterfowl, shorebirds and song birds.

Eric enlightened us with a variety of other

topics such as the laser level/direct-read rod used in surveying the dike, and artificial duck nesting structures as the wood duck box, tripod and hanging baskets for puddle ducks. He also informed us about the exotic wetland plant, purple loosestrife, which is suppressing most of our beneficial aquatic plants. It has no food value, and there is no known selective control for this introduced invader which is dominating many of our wetlands.

Ed Reed, Region 5 Wildlife Biologist, took us on a tour of the Lake Alice water control facility where waterfowl is protected, but where there is great fishing. Bruce Bernard, DEC forester, ended this interesting day of magnificent weather with a tour of a recent timber harvest, showing excellent sapling regeneration.

Thanks to Herb and Debbie Boyce for all the planning that staged this interesting tour.

CENTRAL NEW YORK

The Central New York Chapter held a meeting September 29th at the Liverpool Library. Our guest speaker was Dr. Paul Manion, Professor of Forest Pathology at E.S.&F. Dr. Manion presented a very informative video showing examples of various

People and Trees, Partners in Time,

Grand Parade Marshal of the 47th NYS Woodsmen's Field Days held at Boonville August 20, 1994 - Verner C. Hudson.



Marj & Vern Hudson wearing crowns provided by Bill and Clara Minerdi; photo by Mary Richardson.

tree diseases. A nice question and answer session followed. We hope to schedule a field trip on this same subject in the future.

We welcome Judy Gianforte who has accepted the position of Vice Chairperson of our chapter. We also welcome thirteen new CNY memberships (June through August).

CATSKILL FOREST ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, September 10 more than 35 people turned out for the Catskill Forest Association's Annual Meeting. After a brief business meeting, where Jack McShane, Jim Dunbar, and Carl Wiedemann were re-elected to CFA's Board of Directors, President McShane welcomed the group. Dinnie Sloman, Executive Director, then gave his report which highlighted CFA's activities over the past year. Don Wagner, President of NYFOA, also gave a few comments.

After a brief break, where the crowd enthusiastically began purchasing tickets for the silent auction, the educational portion of the program began. Attendees listened to presentations on a variety of management

issues. Fred Colie, past president and forest manager of the Tuscarora Club, spoke to the group on the history of the fish and game club and how the club manages its land for game species. The second segment was presented by Tom Salo, president of the Delaware/Otsego Chapter of the Audubon Society, and featured a slide presentation on management practices to attract a variety of birds. The morning session concluded with an introduction to trail design and construction by Peter Jensen, Principal of Openspace Management of Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Many good questions came from the group for each of the speakers.

An excellent buffet lunch was prepared and served by the Ladies of the North Kortright Church. After lunch the results of the silent auction were announced and the prizes given to the winners. A special auction then was held for a signed and numbered fishing print by artist and fly fishing instructor Francis Davis of Long Eddy. Juergen Schumann had the highest bid.

For the afternoon portion of the meeting, the group traveled a short distance to Norman and Karin Richards' property in Harpersfield, for a woodswalk. [See page 12]

ALLEGHENY FOOTHILLS CHAPTER

September 17 was a grey day with a threat of showers but this did not keep 55 stalwart members from a woodswalk on the Mowatt home farm in Franklinville. Charlie (and all the other Mowatts) walked us through a 25 acre woodlot that is marked for harvest in January. We were given handouts that included a map of the harvest area, a list of trees to be harvested and a copy of the contract and timber harvest guidelines.

We were walked through and given the rationale for marking and told what the Mowatts hope to achieve in the future with this woodlot. Lots of questions were asked and information exchanged. I (almost) even understand "basal area"! After lunch we held a short meeting. We decided that we will rent a hall for the annual Christmas party as it is getting too big, and a little daunting to expect a member to host this mob. Details on the day and location can be secured from Mark or Joann Kurtis at 945-6012.

Our annual fundraiser is in full swing with almost \$500 worth of balsam cones already collected and members busily collecting butternuts, walnuts and red oak acorns. Anyone wishing to contribute walnuts to the cause should call the Kurtises at the above number. We anticipate a nut collection in excess of \$1000.00 this year.

N.Y.S. Tree Farm News

By Sue Keister

It has come time for Bob and Audrey Childs, N.Y.S.'s 1991 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year to retire from their position on the N.Y.S. Tree Farm Executive Committee. However, the Committee cannot let them go without saying good-bye and thank you.

Nominated by Consulting Forester Bruce Robinson, the Childses Tree Farm, known as Blueberry Hill, not only captured N.Y.'s highest honors, but went on, in 1992 regional competition, to place second to the eventual winners of the National Outstanding Tree Farmer Competition.

Bob and Audrey are more than "just" outstanding Tree Farmers. They are untiring promoters of the benefits of tree farming and forest stewardship. Whether it be through their service as members of the Executive Committee (and those long one day trips to meetings which were never located closer to Blueberry Hill than a good 3 hour drive), their sponsorship and hard work at one of the best attended, annual forestry workshop days in the state, or their enthusiasm and promotion to any and all who would ask when they sold their home grown merchandise at the Buffalo farmers market. Bob and Audrey are untiring in their enthusiasm for the "cause"!

And although words are not always enough, sometimes they are all we have.

Thank you, Bob and Audrey for all your dedication and hard work. Your presence on the Board will truly be missed.

Tree Farm Treats

Tree Farm cook books are still available for your holiday gift giving needs! A wonderful collection of tree farm tested recipes! All for just \$8.00!! Order yours today by calling or writing the Empire State Forest Products Association at 123 State Street, Albany, N.Y. 12207, (518) 463-1297.



Think Globally, Act Locally, Together

Pineholm: 40 Years of a Multi-value Tree Farm

By Norman Richards

One problem often noted for private non-industrial woodlands in New York is that average ownership is less than ten years, so that many owners never get to know their woodlands and the many values they can provide. Hidden in that average, however, is the group of owners who call themselves "tree farmers". We are a diverse lot, but one feature we are most likely to have in common is being fortunate to own and work with our properties long enough to learn about woodland changes - growth and death of trees, changing landscapes and animal populations; the results of our actions on these and other natural processes; and especially our own growing understanding and changing views and values of the piece of the earth under our stewardship.

A great value of tree farming, compared with most other farming, is that it requires long term concern and care but not daily tending, so a tree farm can remain a family focus for continuity while our livelihoods, residence locales, and even generations change. The Richards' tree farm, "Pineholm", completes its 40th year this fall. Its story is special only to our family, and otherwise is just one example of many such family tree farms that have avoided various pressures to "cash in" long enough to add their own chapter to the landuse history of their locale.

The main part of our 190-acre property on the northwest edge of the Catskills was an old farm purchased in 1954 in partnership with my father. The idea for this tree farm came from my freshman forestry courses the previous year that promoted reforesting old fields and rehabilitating deteriorated forests in New York. I was also strongly influenced by Aldo Leopold's "Sand County Almanac" published in 1949. Leopold, who rehabilitated the landscape of an old sandhill farm in



Old fields regrown to woods — planted and natural.

Wisconsin, distinguished between "poor land" in the commercial/economic sense and "rich country" in terms of environmental and aesthetic values. Searching for an appropriate property within about 100 miles of our family farm in the Hudson Valley, I was looking for cheap land with some open fields good enough to grow Christmas trees - the planned means of supporting the tree farm; but also a landscape that appealed to me more basically as "country".

The Theron Goss farm was a fairly typical Catskill hillfarm in several respects. Settled around 1800, it was a small dairy farm until George Stevens retired in the 1920's. The house burned down on the next resident, and the barns were removed. Mr. Goss, who lived a few miles away, bought the farm in 1930 and raised potatoes and cauliflower and cut some hay. He built a small shack for himself and a second for his horses to stay overnight while tending the crops. When we bought the farm from him, the old pastures and some fields were in various stages of regrowth to trees, but the best fields were still being maintained by haycutting. The woods areas had been logged for saleable sawtimber a few years earlier; a reasonable step because timber value generally was not reflected in the low saleprices of such land - in this case \$14 per acre. Therefore, in 1954 the property presented all the typical old-farm situations: (a) open fields offering three alternatives - plant trees for Christmas trees or reforestation, leave to natural reforestation,

or maintain as open fields; (b) old-fields in various stages of natural tree regrowth from scattered seedlings to closed "pole-stands"; and (c) heavily cutover residual woods.

From the beginning, the management objective for the tree farm has been to keep capital investment low, and maintain and improve the property through weekend and vacation work and the farm's income. We initially patched up Mr. Goss's shack for family use, and in 1968 moved into the cabin we have built - still to be "finished".

We became cooperators under the Forest Practice Act in 1955; getting a general management plan prepared by a state forester and free or low cost tree seedlings from the state nursery. From 1955 to 60 we planted up most open fields, primarily for Christmas trees in the better fields but some for reforestation on rougher areas. We soon had more Christmas tree plantings than we could care for well, so several fields were given up to a mix of planted and natural reforestation after a partial harvest of Christmas trees. Learning the hard way that today's Christmas trees are a horticultural crop rather than a forest crop, we now maintain about 15 acres of fairly intensive Christmas tree plantations currently in their second and third rotations - a small commercial business that occupies most of the family's worktime there, but has covered the operating costs of the tree farm most years. Another value of the Christmas tree plantings is that they provide a practical means of maintaining areas in a fairly open

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"young conifer" stage useful for wildlife and views.

Improvement of the cutover woods and naturally reforested fields, including 59 more acres added to the farm, initially consisted of occasional "poison-walks" to herbicide poor trees interfering with good young ones. In 1965, Pineholm was certified as New York Tree Farm No. 295 in the American Tree Farm System. In 1983, Ray Laux from nearby Stamford began to center a part-time firewood business on the farm, resulting in commercial thinning and improvement cuttings on most of our hardwood stands to date. A major side-benefit of this has been an extensive system of woodsroads, as well as his maintenance of the main roadways on the farm.

Also in 1983, we had our first sawtimber harvest of some red oaks that had seeded into an old pasture about 1890. Last year, Mr. Laux carried out a partial harvest and improvement cutting of mostly sugar maple sawlogs and firewood in our steep north-slope woods. Over-all, our improved hardwood stands have an increasing volume of good sawtimber for harvest over the next few decades, and we also can begin to see the future timber values in the younger hardwood stands. A few years ago we had seven old-field white pines cut and hauled for custom sawing into about 2,200 board feet of lumber we are enjoying using to finish the inside of our cabin. Our areas of planted pines also are now growing toward good timber, especially where we have found the time to thin and prune the best trees.

While Christmas tree and timber management provides the financial base for maintaining our tree farm, several non-commercial values and uses of woodland and non-woodland area of the farm are more important to the family on a continuing basis. A 10-acre meadow maintained for wildflowers and wildlife by controlled burning, patch-



Meadow maintained for wildlife and views.

mowing and herbicides is valued for our landscape views. Below the meadow, a dug swimming pond and adjacent beaver pond, dammed more or less "cooperatively" by the beaver and us, are a center of wildlife activity and family recreation. Above the ponds, rock ledges that are poor for growing trees add landscape and habitat diversity to the farm. We value the wildlife for viewing, but permit some hunting on most of the property outside of a central wildlife safety zone. Deer damage to forest and Christmas trees is a significant problem, so deerhunting is somewhat helpful in this respect. Fruit crops for us and

wildlife include apples - both rehabilitated old trees and ones we have planted, and also plantings of many other fruit and nut species of which blueberries have been most successful. All of these values are dimensions of "rich country" that now another generation - our grandchildren - is beginning to learn and appreciate.

Dr. Richards is a professor of forestry at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF), a charter member of NYFOA, and a frequent contributor to the NY FOREST OWNER. Photos by the author.

ANNOUNCING

The very excellent forestry guide:

Crop Tree Management in Eastern Hardwoods by Arlyn W. Perkey, Brenda L. Wilkins, and H. Clay Smith will once again be available through the USDA Forest Service Morgantown, WV, office.

Also available will be a large supply of *Crop Tree Management: Quick Reference*. This condensed booklet, which is a back pocket insert to the *Crop Tree Management in Eastern Hardwoods* publication, has generated separate requests. It is especially useful to give to landowners who have treatment prescriptions in Stewardship plans.

For additional copies of either publication, please contact:

Brenda L. Wilkins or Arlyn W. Perkey
Forest Resources Management
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry
USDA Forest Service
180 Canfield Street
Morgantown, WV 26505
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NY STATE FAIR CHAMPIONS

The Roberts family, who have been growing Christmas trees on Clark Street Extension between Cortland and Groton for 27 years, took home three first place ribbons including Grand Champion, plus a second place and three third place ribbons for their balsam fir, Fraser fir, white spruce, Douglas fir, Austrian pine, blue spruce and table tree.

This is the fourth time the Roberts family has entered state fair competition, but the first time they brought home a Grand Champion.

Al Roberts a retired NYS DEC Forester and NYFOA Awardee for 1986, and his wife, Moira, have been growing trees since 1953 starting on Tughill land near Barnes Corners and Lowville. They started in Tompkins County in 1965, and bought a second lot in 1978, thereby doubling Xmas Tree Production from 15 to 33 acres. In 1989 Moira and Al drew up a formal partnership among themselves and their two sons and wives.

They now produce 1300 trees a year wholesale and sell another 700 cut-and-choose. They also manage fairly intensively an adjoining 100 acres or so of hardwoods from which they harvest their own firewood, a few cords to sell, and lumber for personal use. They also cut, skid, and sell sawtimber, periodically.

Al likes to think they have a "working woodlot".

Al Roberts authored the "Ask A Forester" column for the NY FOREST OWNER for many years.



Al and Moira Roberts (above).

(Below) Some of the 33 acre Christmas Tree plantation.

Photos by Nanci Ludwig.



IRS Excludes SIP Cost Shares

The Internal Revenue Service has issued Revenue Ruling 94-27 which determines that the SIP is substantially similar to the type of program described in Section 126(a)(1)-(9) of the Internal Revenue Code with respect to small watersheds. The outcome of this ruling is that landowners who receive SIP cost-share payments can exclude the amounts received from their gross income for income tax purposes. This should be of primary interest to landowners. The decision came late to help landowners with filing for 1993; however, because this is retroactive they can submit an adjusted return for past years to exempt their SIP payment from being taxed.

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ASK A FORESTER

Selling Standing Timber? Mark Each Tree Stump Correctly

By Robert Sand

Marked trees, whether for sawlog stumpage or TSI, stems should ALWAYS have a stump mark. Recently I became involved in a proposed timber sale that was not stump marked. A long time friend of mine called me one day and asked some questions regarding a proposed timber sale on their farm. They were ready to sign a contract with a reputable local lumberman. We talked about a number of items important to any timber sale and especially if the stand had been marked in any way. She knew that it was but wasn't sure exactly how. Several days later I met her late one afternoon and we looked over the sale quickly. I was surprised that there was NO stump mark on the painted trees. I recommended that before ANY sale, each marked tree be also marked ON THE STUMP with paint. (This is accomplished by a paint mark on a deep crevice at the root collar where it will remain intact AFTER the tree had been cut and removed from their property.)

Over the past 50 years many changes have occurred to mark trees designated for cutting. Early on, trees were blazed with an

axe, then branded with a log hammer both at d.b.h. and on the butt swell. This was a very time consuming chore. Later, foresters used the Syracuse timber scribe and marked the bark with a diagonal or vertical slash on the bole of the tree. A small, usually double, scribe mark was made on the stump. Scribing was both tedious and difficult, especially on old thick barked trees. In the late 40's the hand pumped air pressured oil guns were nozzled specifically for paint use by the DeVilbiss Co. They provided foresters with a new tree marking technique, which quickly found acceptance by field foresters as a better way to mark designated standing timber. Trees that had been paint marked are easy to locate by the logging contractors. Likewise, it provides the forest manager with good visibility and quick recognition of the trees marked for cutting.

Today our acceptance of marked trees using paint at d.b.h. and on the stump is standard in all sections of the country where only a partial cut is being made. But without a stump mark you have no PROOF that it was a marked tree. It is too late once your tree has been felled and skidded out of your woodlot. *Bob Sand, a retired industrial forester and long time supporter of NYFOA, currently serves as NYFOA's recording secretary.*

Ask A Forester Addenda

We wish to clarify some ideas which may have caused some confusion in the Ask a Forester column we submitted for the July/August issue.

Group selection is not an even-aged management technique. By referring to the groups as "clearcuts smaller than one acre", implies it is an even-age management system. Group selection also changes the area to an un-even age forest made up of many small groups of trees which are roughly the same age per group.

The first four alternatives are not exactly clearcutting, but like clearcutting remove all the trees on a designated area creating a condition which will likely help regenerate the mix of species which the owner wishes to keep. Usually, they have similarities to clearcutting, especially the final shelterwood harvest.

The last alternative described does not address the issue of regeneration of this mature woodlot. It is only an alternative to diameter limit harvesting discussed in the previous "Ask a Forester" columns. - Sue and Mark Keister, Wayland

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Julian W. Webb Sr.

Mr. Julian W. Webb, Sr., 71, of New Berlin, died Sunday, Sept. 18 in Cooperstown.

Mr. Webb was a well-known businessman active in his family's lumber and home center business, Webb & Sons, Inc., which included his father, his brothers, his children and grandchildren. He served the lumber industry for 48 years on the Forest Practice Board, was a director of the New York State Forest Products Association, and was an active member of the Northern Loggers Association. He served as a member of the Morrisville College Wood Products Advisory Committee and the Northeastern Retail Lumber Dealers Association. He was influential in creating the New York Lumberman's Healthcare Trust Fund.

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LETTERS

Right - The Problem Is Us!

Charlie Mowatt is right. The ecological "bad guys" really are us! (Ask A Forester, Sep/Oct '94, p. 6.)

And, more specifically, they are the "us" of the First World - the "Have" nations - the 10% of humanity which consumes, exploits and pollutes 80% of the world's natural resources.

We're the ones who foul the air, the land and the water, and demand more and more oil, gas, electricity, food and fiber to keep our machines running, our bodies comfortable, our closets full. You and I probably consume more resources and create more pollution in a day than most Third World families with all their children do in a year. The impact of industrial pollution is far more devastating to the world environment than the combined waste from poor communities scattered around the globe.

We're the ones who must be forced to control our "needs," to change our unjust social structures and work to eliminate greed, graft, corruption and incompetency.

In spite of dire warnings from modern day Malthusians and supporters of Ehrlich, the world is not "already overpopulated" as a whole. Less than one to three percent of the land is inhabited, depending on whose figures you use. Anyone who flies over the earth is immediately struck by this reality and demographers claim that the world's present population could move into the state of Texas with 1500 sq. ft. of space per person - the size of an average American home!

However, by concentrating population in urban areas and not meeting their physical needs, we create the illusion of overpopulation. Even so, many densely populated areas such as Japan and Holland are very prosperous, while underpopulated regions like Brazil and Africa are extremely poor. Recent famines have occurred in some of the most sparsely populated nations. So density of population is not the main problem causing scarcity or pollution of resources.

"There is enough in the world for everyone's need even if not for everyone's greed." - Gandhi

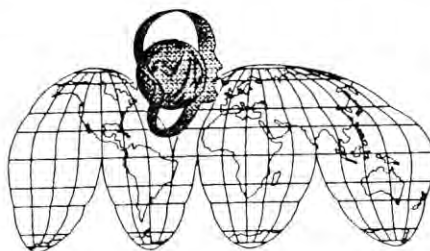
Nor is human population "uncontrolled." Just as with the rest of nature, we are subject to natural controls of wind, water, fire, quakes, eruptions, heat and cold, along with disease. (The full impact of AIDS is yet on the hori-

zon.) Added to this are man-made disasters - Chernobyl, Bophal, planes, trains, cars, ferries and our never ending wars.

As with other animal populations, humans have a natural ebb and flow, and ours has been stabilizing for the past 30 years. The two most significant factors which naturally reduce population growth are economic well being and education. Just as a tree which is dying will often produce a heavy seed crop as a natural response to stress, so perhaps humans whose lives are marginal tend to produce more offspring.

As stress and strain to survive are removed, populations tend to level off naturally. This is the goal we should work toward, not resurrecting the scare tactics of Malthus and Ehrlich by suggesting we pursue an imperialism which would "eliminate" other people's religious and cultural beliefs and values - their respect for life, their prayerful reverence of the divinity.

— Carol & Wes Suhr, *Oswegatchie*



Ecological Management & Humans

I look forward to each issue of The New York Forest Owner for informative and enjoyable reading. I thought Charlie Mowatt's Ask A Forester article (Ecological Management Must Include the Human Element...) in the last issue was particularly good and addresses a very real problem. This problem needs more attention and solutions soon; or all other forest diseases, insect outbreaks, etc. won't really matter.

Thanks for providing a great magazine.

— Robert Sykes, *Elbridge*

Monogamy & Education

This is to inform you I am incorrectly listed on the mailing label as Mary; and the correct name should be Laura. My husband says he does not have another wife named Mary; but another wife, by any name, sure would come in handy for all the laundry and housework and especially those telephone sales calls.

Anyway, I would also like to point out that many families such as ours have decided to teach our children at home. We don't believe the public schools provide a balanced approach, especially towards science and conservation such as wildlife and forest management. If NYFOA would be interested in pursuing some form of uncomplicated curriculum, please contact us at 90 Bailor Road, Brooktondale 14817-9728.

— Toebe & Laura McDonald

TO MY FRIENDS AT NYFOA

By Sam Argetsinger

Thank you for the privilege of speaking at your annual fall meeting. And thank you for the wonderful dinner. I hope we can all be part of forestry that is for-us-trees. I wrote the following song for my children one winter day when I was logging and the bears were hibernating:

When I was just a wee little laddie my daddy did say to me;
My son don't you go to the deep dark woods, or a logger you will be.
"Why, o' why, my dear daddy, in the deep dark woods can't I stroll?"
He said, "My son, there's a spirit and a fever that gets to a working man's soul.
So I went in the deep dark woods, and a logger I became.
Ever since the sawdust drank my blood, I've never been the same.
I cut the table you eat upon, and the chair in which you sit.
I cut the paper and the pencils and the houses, and then I cut the toothpicks.
I cut the cradle that rocks the little baby, and the floor you walk upon;
But you can't grow timber, if you don't cut timber,
And that's the reason for this song.

Sam Argetsinger, a timber harvester for some 14 years, recited the above song at Hulbert House in Boonville, after the dinner. By general acclaim that evening, Sam agreed to representing the song in the NY FOREST OWNER.

AT HOME IN THE WILDERNESS - A Book Review

By Betty Densmore

When Beth Buckley first called me to say, "We're writing a book.", I needed to ask: "About what." The Buckleys have been writing for a long time and I knew that canoeing was their first love, still they are remarkably expert at many things.

They have run a successful lumber business, produced several audio-visual shows on canoeing and wild life, instructed at many canoe symposia (including L.L. Bean), conducted a successful Wildlife Land Survey business, written dozens of articles on their adventures on wild rivers, restored their own 106 acres to a wildlife paradise; the list goes on. They might have written a book on many subjects. They chose to put the wisdom accumulated over years (and miles) of canoeing into a little volume of canoe tripping techniques.

While the 102 pages are packed with practical, sensible techniques it is also full of humor, good writing, a lyric sense of the beauty of canoeing and a deep love of wilderness and its value to each and every one of us; whether we spend our summers on wild Yukon rivers, or in our own forests. Spend a few hours with Beth and David on their land, as many of us in the Allegheny Foothills Chapter did at a woodswalk that they hosted a few years back, and you get a sense of their enormous commitment to forestry and wild-life. They have actually done so many of the



Beth & David Buckley

things that most of us would like to do with our properties. It seems that every square inch has been surveyed and thought about and a plan made and implemented, encouraging wildlife and establishing good forest management practices. I often wonder how they find time to keep the whole of it in such excellent condition, get their winter's wood, go on many canoe trips (often to the Yukon or the Northwest Territories), write dozens of articles, produce slide shows, lead canoe expeditions and instruct in canoe tripping at various outfitters. They are, like so many NYFOANs, exhausting people.

The book's eight chapters deal with such things as: staying dry, useful knots, campfires, bears and portaging. Even the table of contents gets your interest with such titles as "Why Knot?", "The Pirates of Eden Island", and "Twixt Landing & Launching" to mention three. This book is packed with solid information aimed at the canoeist with at least one trip in their past and the hope of many more in the future. It gives information in a manner that lets the reader know that the Buckleys weren't born knowing all this they learned much of it the hard way and they aren't afraid to share some of their mistakes and hard lessons with the reader. This ability to laugh at themselves makes the book very reader friendly. Equipment that has proven itself is listed by name; and an appendix gives names and addresses of sources of products, and books and magazines of interest to canoeists. The book is full of excellent line

drawings that illustrate knots and beautiful black and white photos that graphically depict not only various techniques but the beauty of the wilderness as well.

This is the first of three or four books on canoeing that Beth and David intend to write. If the others offer the solid ideas, experience and usefulness that the first does, no canoe tripper will want to be without the complete library.

To secure a copy of the book send \$10.00 to: Ashford Outdoor Media, 6478 Ashford Hollow Rd. West Valley, N.Y. 14171-9612 and the Buckleys will send you a copy.

The Shapes Of Earth

—By Dorothy Darling

Clouds hung low like bulging pockets,

Holding wares from the season's store
While mountains crouched, cold and stark
With jagged peaks piercing the dark.

As though impaled upon the spiny ridge,
The sagging clouds burst and spilled
Their hoardings in wave after wave
Until all the sky was flurried and filled

With millions of fragile, blue-white flakes,
Settling softly down upon windowsills,
Outlining fences, bowing the evergreens,
With added stature for the humble hills.

Lightened clouds strolled across the sky
As their generous offerings mounted below,
And when morning had brought its light,
The shapes of earth were deep in snow.





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Bubble, Bubble, Toil and Trouble

By Jane Sorensen Lord, PhD, OTR, ND

In mid-September, perennial herbs seem to have a growth spurt. My reaction used to be,

"Gordon will kill me if I hang any more herbs out to dry in the kitchen or closets!"

Now I make concentrated herb waters with five or six herbs groups for purpose and freeze them in zip lock baggies for future use.

I collect and group the herb leaves; for skin, for cooking, for scent. I use a gallon glass sauce pan, filled with the crushed herbs covered with water and simmered until half the liquid is gone. After filtering the herbs out, about a quart and a half is left which I pour into a dozen zip locked sandwich bags and freeze. When later thawed, double the amount of water and use! They are great spritzed as an air freshener or a skin astringent. You can use them as a potpourri, or if added to an equal amount of glycerin, as a skin moisturizer.

Herbal vinegars use a lot of herbs, singly, or in combination. They make great hostess gifts, too. Buy white (or your preferred) vinegar and pour off about a third. Put in whole leaves and stems of the plants (I do for the gifts, anyway) until the bottle is topped. Label and put away. My favorites are mint and basil (separately). I have made some good combinations, too, but it is tricky to hit the proper balance. For instance, garlic overwhelms everything and should only be used

alone. For fat free diets, the herbal vinegars are salad dressings without the oil.

Many people use the scented vinegars as a skin astringent. They are supposed to replenish the skin's acid mantle. I imagine this is true, but I don't like the strong vinegar smell.

For cooking, cram your favorite herbs into a Ball jar and cover with vodka. Shake it 50 times and let sit for three or four weeks. Use the flavored vodka in cooking and you get the taste of fresh herbs. The herbs can be covered with the vodka a few times more, so don't throw them out right away. As with the vinegars, you can use the herbs singly or in combination.

You can also make "over-the-counter" tinctures with vodka, too. Coltsfoot, horehound, mullein for sore throats. Valerian root, melissa, mint, chamomile for sleep or calming. Take these by the tablespoon, not a jigger.

My Italian neighbor crams basil leaves into a jar and covers them with olive oil for the taste of fresh basil throughout the winter. They turn dark, but in cooking they do taste fresh. This works with most of the kitchen herbs. Use only leaves because the stems cannot soak up the oil.

I make single oils using canola, Vitamin E, and an herb. I later make potions in combinations as needed for sunburn, chapped

skin, zits, bruises, sores and hot hair oil. These are also the oils I make for clients to soothe joint pain, for scar repair, and other problems I deal with as an Occupational Therapist.

Aromatic oils can be made with canola oil, too.... but you need to filter out and add new material six or seven times to get a strong enough smell. This is the way perfumed oils were made before electricity and distillation. This year I made costmary, melissa, rue, lavender, hyssop, clary sage, angelica, and sweet grass. I was pleased with the results and will mix them into my potions, wear them, or use them in a water scent diffuser. I particularly like the costmary because it came from the Cloisters medieval herb garden. The herbalist was cutting back the costmary the last time I was there, and let me take a bag full of the cuttings! We exchanged information on using plants, her interest being dyes and mine herbal oils. I feel pleased about the exchange not only did I hold my own, but was able to give her new information.

Most amusing to me, though, were the thoughts that drifted through my fantasy that sunny day in the medieval castle. "How can I get into sorcerer's school?"

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



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).

For Sale — A well-managed timberland tract in Ellenburg, NY consisting of 191 acres near Upper Chateauguy Lake. Asking \$100,000. For more details contact Ben Hudson at Wagner Woodlands and Co., P.O. Box 128, Lyme, NH 03768 (603) 795-2165

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WOODLOT CALENDAR

Nov 1: WFL; 7:30 PM; Tree Identification; Jim Peek; Extension Center; Rochester; (716) 367-2849

Nov 12: WFL; 10 AM; Tree Identification - Part II; Mendon Ponds Park; (716) 367-2849

Nov 15: STC; 7:30 PM; Gypsy Moths & Other Pests of Southern Tier Woodlots; Dr. Julian Shepherd; Extension Center, Binghamton

Nov 19: NFC; 10 AM; Valor Lumber Co. Plant Tour; Sandusky; (716) 632-5862

Apr 29: NYFOA Spring Meeting, Syracuse

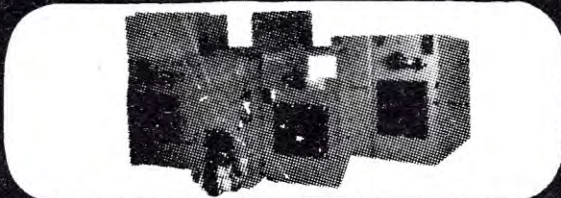
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