

The New York
FOREST OWNER

A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association

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Sugarin' Research

THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNER

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OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Don Wagner, President

RD #1, Box 203C
Utica, NY 13502; (315) 733-7391

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Liverpool, NY 13088; (315) 451-3712

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300 Church Street
Odessa, NY 14869-9703; (607) 594-2130

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45 Cambridge Court
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Deborah Gill, Administrative Secretary

P.O. Box 180
Fairport, NY 14450; (716) 377-6060

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Dinnie Sloman, Catskill Forest Assoc.; (914) 586-3054

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COVER: Robert Smolka sampling for sugar concentration in sap at Uihlein Field Station, Lake Placid, NY.

FOREST OWNER

A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association
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Please address all membership fees and change of address requests to P.O. Box 180, Fairport, N.Y. 14450. Cost of individual membership subscription is \$20.

Sugarin' Research



Processing sap in the Sugar House at Uihlein Station in Lake Placid, Essex Co.

See page 5.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Don Wagner

As I sit at my computer trying to keep warm during this extremely frigid period, while my muscles still ache from all the shoveling, snowblowing, and plowing with OLD BLUE, I can't help reminiscing back to last summer and the beautiful warm weather. One of the most pleasant experiences I had was boating on Piseco Lake, one of the many lakes in the Adirondacks, with some very dear friends of mine, Ken and Ruth Eberley. As you can see in the photo, Ken, Ruth, and my dog Samantha seem to be enjoying themselves. As much as I enjoy the winter months, this current deep freeze makes me wish for warmer weather.

As I promised in my last President's message, I did make a valid attempt to participate in several Chapter/Affiliate Christmas events. I was able to get to three; AFC's Christmas party in Ellicottville (by the way, you can't get there from here), Central New York's Christmas dinner in Tully, and



Long time NYFOA stalwarts, Ruth and Ken Eberley with mooching Samantha.

THRIFT's Christmas covered dish event in Remsen. All of these events were wonderful. I met many new members of our Association and had an opportunity to participate in pleasant fellowship. By the way I'm now about the same size as the bear you saw me hugging in the last magazine.

My wife, Betty, displayed the completed quilt-top at January's Board of Directors meeting. In addition, raffle tickets were passed out to each Chapter/Affiliate Chair present. If you haven't gotten tickets yet, simply ask your Chair for some. Let's get behind this fund raising effort that will be beneficial to both the NYFOA's and the Chapter's or Affiliate's budgets. It's an excellent, relatively easy way to earn some money with the possibility of winning a keepsake quilt.

The USDA survey, which I discussed in the last President's message, was met with mixed reaction. Some Chapters/Affiliates worked diligently to get as much survey information as possible. Others were not able to support the effort for a variety of reasons. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in this effort.

Debbie Gill reported at the January Board meeting that our membership is currently 1,914. Many of you are doing an excellent job in recruiting new members. Our Association, like most others, also has significant attrition; therefore, it is crucial to continue to recruit members and determine what the Association can do to lower

its attrition rate. I welcome any ideas or thoughts you may have in this regard. In any event, we must be doing something right to be continually growing in membership.

I just wanted to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to our Editor, Dick Fox, our Editorial Committee Chair, Betty Densmore, and all the members of that Committee for the excellent job they are doing in continually improving and upgrading our fine magazine. It seems every edition is better than the previous one. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication.

As a reminder, it's that time of the year to clean and repair your Blue Bird boxes. Also, the Spring meeting is scheduled for April 29. I haven't seen the agenda yet, but I know it will be outstanding. I hope to see as many of you as possible at this meeting.

ADVENT OF THE GREENING

By Dorothy S. Darling

The chilly coffers of winter empty out
and the fragile gems sink deeply,
no more to sparkle for the timid sun
or match the cold white moon.

But the year will embrace its spring
as earth, long wrapped in fields white
from all the day-storms and zero nights
stirs.

The sun slides in quick celebration
from behind drifting, sullen clouds,
casting down its boldest beams
upon the thinning shafts of ice

that cling thickly to sagging roofs
and glisten to their melting point
into silvery beads plummeting down
to the darkening rise of ground.

The advent of the greening
barely visible,
pushing through dead leaves
but rising up,
and gray limbs drink deeply
from roots awakening
to spring green with buds.
Easter



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WATDA OWANO GI

By Henry Kernan

Like so much else regarding the maple sugar tree, the Indian's use of sap has continued to stir interest and controversy — controversy that much research into their pre-European food habits has not resolved. Those habits were not squeamish. They included all parts of nearly everything that walked, crawled, swam, burrowed, or flew. During the millenia of existence in their northern hardwood forests, the Iroquois and their ancestors must also have discovered the edible parts of plants, including maple sap. They had a word for the sap flow of warm, early spring days, *ogantot*, and knew of the pleasant taste while the flow is fresh and the buds are closed. Northeastern Indians roasted their meat and boiled their food in round-based gourd-like pottery. They must have understood evaporation.

Nevertheless, it is not the lack of knowledge that might bar the production of maple sugar or even syrup; it is the prodigious task of assembling sap, firewood, clay pot-capacity and energy which was never observed by early writers of Indian ways. After exhaustive research, an authority quoted in the Smithsonian's Handbook of American Indians (Vol 15, Pg 298) concludes, "... not one of the very early observers noted that the Indians made maple syrup."

Such a conclusion can hardly surprise anyone who has boiled sap to sugar. The Indian's way of life was accompanied with extreme physical stress, often on the edge of starvation. However skillful the wielder, weapons of wood and axes of stone require patience and stamina almost inconceivable in this age of rifles and chainsaws. White-tails were not as plentiful then as now. The Handbook, quoted above, estimates that the Iroquois may have taken 20,000 deer in a season, a small number compared to the state's 1993 take of 220,288 by legal hunters and the 10,332 reported killed by automobiles. Indians avoided activities calling for energy excessive to the nutritional result. Surely, with only stone, bark, and clay, boiling sap to sugar is in that category of excess!

However, early colonists may well have come across Indians making maple sugar and may have learned from them to do likewise. Well before face-to-face encounters, Indians had articles of trade, iron pots,

knives, axes and other means to carry and cut. Their making sugar from maple sap while still living in long houses does not mean they did so in pre-European times. With metal tools and containers they could have taken on the otherwise arduous and tedious tasks of gathering, storing, and boiling down forty gallons of sap to one of syrup and then on to sugar.

The Iroquois language has one word for sap and syrup, *owanogi*; sugar is *owano*; and maple is *watda*. The last word never became part of our speech nor did most Indian words for trees. Europe and northeast-

ern United States have trees so similar their names were readily transferred to the new world. An exception is hickory which has no counterpart in Europe.

But, if *watda* has not survived as a name, it certainly has, as a tree. *Watda* colors our fall landscapes, warms our hearths, and sweetens our palates with what the Iroquois called *owanogi* prior to colonization.

Henry Kernan is a retired consultant to World Forestry, an MFO, and a frequent contributor to the NY FOREST OWNER.

SQUIRRELLY SAP

By R. J. Fox

Bernd Heinrich, zoology professor at the University of Vermont, in an article ("Nutcracker Sweets", NATURAL HISTORY 2-91) exposed the red squirrel as the progenitor of the maple-sugaring industry. From records cited in the article, as early as 1903, red squirrels were observed tapping trees for the sweet sap flow.

Professor Heinrich calculated that a red squirrel could not drink enough sap, 2% sugar by volume, to maintain minimum daily energy requirements, 117,000 calories (Christopher Smith, University of Kansas). Since Heinrich had observed three red squirrels expending much energy tapping many trees and "lapping the sap" (which reminded him "of a kid gone wild in a candy store"); he embarked on a project of systematic observations to explain their behavior.

After measuring sugar concentrations at 60 taps, he found them uniformly above 6% and sometimes as much as 55%, the maximum reading of his pocket refractometer. The red squirrel taps, when the most successful, created 16 inch streaks down the bark, the surface tension of which promoted rapid evaporation. The red squirrels apparently eat the sugar glaze with a film of bark rather than lap sap! At one site Heinrich observed five squirrels working 100s of taps. Each puncture bite is made in less than a sec-



ond by opposing teeth making a single deep 2mm groove and leaving a curl of bark. The red squirrel then goes to an older tap (often 3 or 4 days old) for sugar or makes another fresh tap, rarely taking sap. Heinrich found identical bite marks at 19 out of 32 sites in Maine and Vermont.

At one site in late January, 15 young sugar maples revealed 158 bite marks while 73 other non-sugar maple trees including 25 red maple trees showed no taps at all; a month later the number of sugar maple taps had trebled.

Professor Heinrich acknowledged that each tap could provide 300 calories of the red squirrel's daily energy requirement and could be harvested in about a minute. Sugar maple taps may not be adequate as a sole source for red squirrel energy but they are obviously worth the effort. Also, Heinrich suggests the taps may be a food source for winter-active moths, the Cuculiinae.

[Grey squirrels may not use the sugar maple sap as a food source because of an inefficiency in size.]

Sugarin' Research in the Adirondacks

By Lewis J. Staats

Over 60 percent of New York State is covered with forests, a total of 18.5 million acres, more forest land than any other northeastern state. New York's forest land is comprised of 83 percent commercial forest. Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) continues to be the number one species in New York's forest. Maple syrup, a pure natural food derived from the sap of the sugar maple, is produced only in a small part of the North American continent providing a cash crop at a key period to farmers and rural landowners. New York, in the heart of the natural geographic range of sugar maple, ranks high in maple syrup production in the United States second only to neighboring Vermont. Maple syrup production in New York for the last 10 years has averaged over 300,000 gallons valued conservatively at over 10 million dollars.

The Uihlein Sugar Maple Research — Extension Field Station, located near Lake Placid in the Adirondack Mountains, is administered by the Department of Natural Resources of the New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University. The field station was established in 1965 with the aid of generous gifts and support from Mr. and Mrs. Henry Uihlein II of Lake Placid, New York. The mission of the field station is to serve the maple syrup industry through research and extension programs. Over 200 acres provide for the study of the management, health, and genetic improvement of sugar maple and research in maple sap production and syrup processing. Along with published papers, results of research and projects are disseminated through statewide extension programs and seminars at the field station.



Sugar bush in winter.

Upon establishment of the Uihlein Field Station and continuing for several years, research emphasis centered on sap production under the direction of Professor Robert R. Morrow. As a result of this work, much greater volume yields with increased profit can be expected using plastic tubing sap collection systems combined with the proper use of the forest resource, termed sugarbush management. The field station's sugarbush of approximately 4,000 taps and its increasing annual production illustrates well to visiting producers and landowners the merits of new technology and proper forest stewardship.

After the retirement of Morrow in 1983, research continued under the direction of Professor John W. Kelley. A major project was the development and evaluation of the prototype vapor compression evaporator. This process greatly increases efficiency and profitability in converting raw maple sap to syrup.

In recent years, research has focused on the genetic improvement of sugar maple

for increased sap sugar concentration. A progeny test and clonal orchard were established at the field station in 1983 on land gifted to Cornell from the Uihleins. In cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, several years of testing sugar maple progeny for sap sugar concentration have identified desirable genotypes that can ultimately form the seed orchards for producing future improved growing stock. A greenhouse, installed in 1993 at the field station and in full operation in early 1994, will facilitate the propagation of genetically characterized stock by both asexual and sexual reproduction. Additional land located near the field station acquired in 1994 will provide a protected site for seed orchard establishment and sugar maple cultural study. Beginning in 1993, the tree improvement program was enhanced with collaborative research into the physiology of sugar maple directed by Dr. Todd Dawson at Cornell University.

The Uihlein Field Station has served as the host of New York Maple Tours for 1968 and 1983 with over 300 attending each event. Several field seminars and/or tours for maple producers, landowners, and foresters have helped to fulfill the extension role of the facility. Two educational videos have been produced at the field station; Sugarbush Management in 1992 and Maple Sap Production in 1993. A third in the series is in preparation and will be completed in 1995.

The facility is managed by Lewis J. Staats, Extension Associate who also serves as state-wide maple specialist. Christopher Moquin serves as a field assistant. Several temporary/seasonal employees assist in research or seasonal production. Both graduate and undergraduate students have served as interns or had research projects at the field station.



Sap collection tube system, Uihlein Field Station.

For Higher Stumpage, Sell the Stump

By George Gagnon

Stop before you cut that "Hack" (Tamarack, Larch, Juniper) at ground level, and look at the roots. Yes, the roots — you might be leaving at least \$50.00 worth of wood in the ground.

After returning to Central Maine in the late 1980s, I started to develop a market for Hack ship knees. Being a boatbuilder by trade, I knew there had to be a healthy market for the once commonly used natural crook of the Hackmatack root, which is high in rot resistance and extremely strong. I do have a market, and I'm interested in talking to you about your roots.

Here are a few basic facts about Hack ship knees: 1) The tree should be cut off at four feet above ground level and the tree should be at least ten inches in diameter at that point. The root lengths can vary in length, but generally, the longer they are, the better; 2) The trees usually have one or more roots coming off of the trunk which are usable; 3) The wetter the ground is, the better. In wet ground (bogs), the trees set down a heavier root which has little or no rot because of the constant moisture. The roots can also be cut out of bog areas without any serious damage done to your saw or chain. Mostly, the chain only gets "wood dull" and lacks proper lubrication because of the water; 4) High ground Hack has most, if not all, of the problems - root rot, rocks, dirt, etc. However, they are more accessible and well worth checking out; and 5) Bog Hack can be felled with the roots on simply by removing the undesired roots and cutting the keepers to length! Or you can cut the tree at the four foot length and deal with the stump in that way.

Fall/Winter is a good season for this operation. You can do a lot of cutting and then freeze down your road to make removal easier. I have cut knees in sub-zero weather. It can be done, and the return is great!

There is a market for hack roots properly harvested, and I hate to see the product wasted just because land owners and wood cutters don't know what they have and what to do with them. You still end up with your logs and/or pulp and only leave four feet on the stump. So, if you do have a bog with Hack in it and are interested in

discussing this further, give me a call. Remember, if you want a good return on your stumpage, think about the stump!

George Gagnon has been in the boat building and repair business since the late 1970s. He presently has orders to fill for

Hack ship knees. Contact him at Spring Hill Industries, P.O. Box 139, St. Albans, ME 04971 - (207) 938-2252.

From Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine Newsletter December '94.

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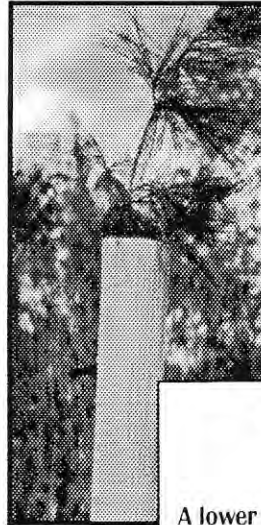
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Grass Carp - A New Option For Aquatic Plant Control

By Emilio Rende

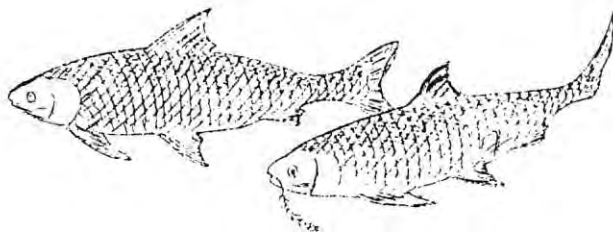
Every year many pondowners are faced with excessive plant growth in their ponds. In the past the only alternatives available to controlling this problem were physical, chemical, and mechanical methods. While these methods do work, they are only short-term and usually require a considerable amount of labor and expense. An alternative biological control method is the use of herbivorous grass carp.

What Are Grass Carp?

Grass carp are members of the minnow family native to eastern China and the former Soviet Union. A relative of both the carp and goldfish, grass carp lack barbels and spiny dorsal and anal fin rays. They feed by grazing on aquatic vegetation and do not share the bottom feeding habits typical of the common carp and goldfish. Grass



Water Milfoil



Grass Carp

carp prefer tender, succulent plant species over those that are tough and fibrous. They do not eat cattails, waterlily, arrowhead, bulrush, burreed, or suspended plankton.

Types of Grass Carp

There are two forms of grass carp: diploid (or fertile) grass carp and triploid (or sterile) grass carp.

Triploids are the only grass carp legal in New York State. While fertile grass carp have been used abroad and in some other states, New York prohibits these fish; because of concerns about the potential impact they could have on aquatic habitats, if uncontrolled reproducing populations became established.

Triploid grass carp are created by shocking grass carp eggs immediately after fertilization with either hot or cold water. The temperature shock results in the retention of an extra set of chromosomes that makes the fish incapable of producing young.

Requirements

In order to stock grass carp into any pond in New York State, the owner must first obtain a permit from DEC. Waters that may be stocked must meet several requirements including: ponds must be five acres or less in size; ponds cannot be impoundments or natural ponds within a permanent stream course or the source of a permanent stream; and ponds cannot be contiguous to, or part of, a New York State regulated freshwater wetland.

Stocking permit applications and additional information can be obtained from any DEC Regional Fisheries Office.

The grass carp stocking program is for aquatic plant control and not plant eradication. Rooted aquatic vegetation is part of a healthy aquatic system, providing cover for fish and substrate for invertebrates. Total devegetation of a pond can result in the

development of severe algal blooms and an overall decline in water clarity.

Plant control with triploid grass carp is a slow process so you may not see immediate results. However, once control is achieved it will last several years.

Emilio Rende is a Fisheries Biologist in NYS DEC Region 9. This article is reprinted from NYS DEC publication WILD IN NEW YORK VOL. 2 NO. 3 1994. For a 52 page booklet, "Triploid Grass Carp for New York Ponds," send \$3.00 to Cayuga County SWCD, 7413 County House Road, Auburn, NY 13021 (315) 252-4171.

Some Experience

We have had an ever increasing problem of milfoil in our pond, due to nutrient runoff from a neighboring farm. We spoke to several different people at NYFOA meetings about it, and were generally discouraged from trying to get a permit from DEC to use grass carp to control it. However, we decided to give it a try, and called the DEC Division of Fish and Wildlife - Bureau of Fisheries in Stamford, for an application. The one page application and information on grass carp came quickly. We filled it out (there is no application fee), were visited by a fisheries agent, and within a month received a permit for ten fish for our 1 acre pond. We contacted the nearest DEC approved fish supplier, and had our ten fish two weeks later. They are expensive, \$12. each for 12 inch fish, but easily transported in 30 gallon scrubbed garbage cans. If the otter doesn't feast on them this winter, we should have a good start on curbing the milfoil.—**Jill and Barry Cornell, Johnsonville**

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Wanted! MFOs to Help Neighbors

By Gary R. Goff

If you are reading this article, chances are that you've got what it takes to be a Master Forest Owner/COVERTS (MFO) volunteer! I'll bet that you: (1) are a member of the NY Forest Owners Association, (2) have experience in owning and managing forest land, and (3) are dedicated to wise forest stewardship. All of those attributes notwithstanding, the single, most important quality needed by MFOs is a sincere interest in assuring the long-term productivity of NY's forests.

Since the fall of 1991, a corps of dedicated volunteers has been involved in this innovative and successful program that has the goal "to provide NY forest owners with the information and encouragement necessary to manage their forest holdings to enhance ownership satisfaction." Over the past three years, MFOs have reported nearly 300 personal visits to neighboring forest owners involving a total of just over 27,000 acres of forests! In addition to the visits, they have also reported nearly 400 other separate educational activities in just the past 2 years!

Typically, MFOs arrange to meet interested neighbors in the neighbor's woodlot for a 1/2-day visit. There, landowner objectives are discussed and the MFOs provide some insight based on their experiences, and suggest sources of further information and means by which to obtain technical advice or services. A survey of visited forest owners in 1993 showed that this "information transfer" technique using "peer counselling" really works! For example, within 2 years of the MFO visit, 60% of the contacted forest owners had met with a professional forester, and another 20% planned to do so. Similarly, 42% had sought out more information on forest management and another 7% planned to do so. Many forest owners specifically reported that they were very pleased with the program and the visit of the MFO.

Similarly, the vast majority of the MFOs stay active in the program beyond their initial first year commitment. The most common regret expressed by MFOs is that they don't have more time to devote to the program. As an indicator of the continuing interest on the part of MFOs, over a third of the 103 MFOs certified over the past 3 years attended last year's 3-day "refresher" course.

Frank Rose, (right) Forester with Coastal Lumber Co., explaining the importance of log grades to 1992 MFO class.



Dr. Hugh Canlam, (left) professor with the College of Environmental Science & Forestry, demonstrates the relationship of tree quality to saw timber value.

Next year's 3-day training workshop for up to 40 MFO candidates will be held at Cornell's Arnot Forest (south of Ithaca) on September 14-17, 1995. Topics covered at the workshop include tree ID, wildlife and sawtimber management, forest economics, finding boundaries, education techniques, and sources of forestry information in NY. These topics are presented by a wide-array of forestry experts including experienced MFOs, professional foresters, and college professors. The workshop format is a blend of classroom lectures, field trips and hands-on training. The most common word used on workshop evaluations is "outstanding!"

The NY MFO/COVERTS Program is sponsored by the NY Forest Stewardship Program and the Ruffed Grouse Society, with cooperation from Cornell Cooperative Extension, NYS DEC's Div. of Lands and Forests, and the NY Forest Owners Association. The term "coverts" (pronounced like cover) refers to good grouse habitat, and as such, is symbolic of the importance of habitat management for all wildlife.

If you, or someone you know is interested in becoming a MFO volunteer, I urge you to contact a current MFO to get their impression of the program. For the name and address of the MFO nearest you, contact your regional NYS DEC or Cornell Cooperative Extension County Office. For more information on the program or to ap-

ply as a candidate, please call or write the Program Director, Gary Goff, Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, ph. 607/255-2824.

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Eco-System Management & Non-Industrial Private Land Owners

By John Marchant

To the question, "How can we involve private forest land owners in the Eco-System Management concept?", consider that target audience as three distinct and identifiable entities. You may disagree with the groupings and even the number; but Non-Industrial Private Forest Owners (NIPFs) exhibit a wide diversity of characteristics and, as we think of the most effective utilization of our financial and human resources, it may be wise to approach different segments of that overall population in different ways.

At the first National Forest Stewardship Conference held at the Arbor Day Foundation Conference Center in Nebraska City, approximately 150 landowners were invited to attend from all 50 states. The conference was specifically designed to ask for their advice and ideas about how to greatly increase the number of landowners throughout the country practicing stewardship at their level of achievement. This is the group of landowners you certainly wouldn't have to sell the Eco-System Approach to Management; they have been practicing it in various forms for many years. In fact there is mounting evidence that the most effective way to convince uninvolved forest owners to practice stewardship is through a peer-peer relationship with knowledgeable experienced owners. [MFOs facing page] I refer to these practitioners and vocal advocates as Group I.

The second group I would form are those landowners who already have a management plan of various sorts and are practicing to some degree. In New York State that would be some 5% of 500,000 or about 25,000 management plans. Group II would include all the people in the American Tree Farm System minus an estimated 15% which clearly fit in Group I.

The last group, Group III, consists of the remaining 400,000 forest landowners throughout the state. Dr. John Bliss at Auburn University has done some excellent attitude surveys of Non-Industrial Forest Owners and the general public in the Tennessee Valley region. His paper is titled, "UFO's - UNIDENTIFIED FOREST OWNERS". Although the play on words is coincidental, our ability to find Group III and educate them has frightening similarities.

The principal finding from this survey was that the attitudes of NIPF's toward tra-

ditional forest practices closely mirrored those attitudes of the general public. Although there is a strong feeling about preserving our present ecological position, there is great misinformation and misunderstanding about what is required to achieve that. Many of us would be happy just to get people in Group III to accept the fact that **leaving forested lands alone isn't the best way to sustain healthy forest resources.**

It may not be the most effective use of our total resources to try and involve NIPFs in an Eco-System Approach to Management as a single group treated with a single process. People in Group I and II are readily identifiable while those in Group III can only be found with considerable effort. Once found, the approach to capture their attention and interest them in participating will be very different from the others.

For most owners and the public the value of Eco-System Management requires success on state forests.

There is an opportunity for the professionals in the public sector and those 400,000 in Group III. Nothing could be more effective in convincing this group of the value of Eco-System Management than its publicized success on our state forests. Most of the attitude they now hold, rightly or wrongly, has come from the publicized 'failures' of our publicly held forests. This is an opportunity to get those perceptions positive for our side. Just imagine some of those people saying, "Gee, I wonder if ECO-SYSTEM MANAGEMENT would work well on my land?"

I am totally in support of an Eco-System Approach to the Management of Natural Resources. However, I do have severe reservations about the term Eco-System Management. I had initially accepted the concept of Eco-System Management as being motherhood, apple pie, and the American Flag. The more I thought about the practice of "Eco-System Management" the more concerned I have become. As a private land owner I feel very comfortable with concepts like "Multiple Use" and a "Sustainable Environment". I have all the confidence that I can manage my property to produce useful wood products of all qualities, improve wildlife habitat and sus-

tain and encourage species, protect all manner of rare classes of flora and fauna and wetlands, and in general leave the property in better condition than when I acquired it. In short I can manage what I understand.

When it is suggested that I manage the entire Eco-System of my 160 acres, I become very concerned, I can't possibly know the millions of elements involved in the biological strata comprising that natural environment. I can not determine the status of forest floor elements except through gross changes above the soil level. I will have moved from not being able to see the forest for the trees, to not being able to see the trees for the molecules.

Perhaps this is just a case of semantics but Eco-System implies an all encompassing concept to me. Great emphasis has been placed on the "above ground" considerations and the use of a scale without conventional boundaries for managing wildlife, watershed and general forest health. Many of us have learned what to do to manage and sustain the principal elements of the natural environments for which we are personally responsible. Let's call that what it is, and be wary of that which is politically more acceptable, but practically impossible to achieve.

John Marchant, WFL Chapter NYFOA, is Northeastern Vice-President of the National Woodland Owners Association. This article was excerpted from a speech of the same title given to resource professionals at the Eco-System Symposium, University of Vermont, July 16, 1994. More on the Eco-System Approach to Management in Coming Issues of the NY FOREST OWNER.

COMING ISSUES NY FOREST OWNER

May/June

Northern Forest Lands Council
Robert Bendick, Chairman
Park Management
Ted Koslowsky, County Forester

July/Aug

The Forest Behind The Trees
Paul Manion, SUNY-ESF
Forest Soils
Ed White, SUNY-ESF

CHAPTER/AFFILIATES

CATSKILL FOREST ASSOCIATION

CAYUGA CHAPTER

CFA has cooperated in an UNESCO application to declare the Catskill region as a Biosphere Reserve. The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development will be the initial coordinator within the Biosphere Reserve. Details and progress of the application will be described in the May/June issue of THE FOREST OWNER.

WESTERN FINGER LAKES

42 people at the January meeting heard **Bruce Robinson**, a private consulting forester from Jamestown discuss tree biology and the importance of the tree's root system.

The next meeting is scheduled for **March 21st**, 7:30 PM at Cornell Extension on Highland Ave. subject to be announced or call Dale Schaefer evenings (716)367-2849. Saturday, **April 22**, 10:00 AM, we will have a woodwalk scheduled on Dale Schaefer's woodlot to observe the changes since the timber sale two years ago.

CENTRAL NEW YORK

We had a great turn-out for the Wildlife Rehabilitation presentation January 19th in Manlius. Cynthia Page gave an excellent talk and slide show, accompanied with a live owl and hawk.

Plans for the Family Forest Fair '95 are moving along with many vendors and exhibitors responding. This year's theme is "Forest Finished Products". A mini-seminar on lumber drying will be included among the anticipated new events. Be sure to reserve **June 3rd** for a great family experience.

NFC

On **March 18** the NFC will hold a pancake brunch fundraiser in **David Colligan's** sugar shack in Glenwood. A golden opportunity to have delicious pancakes and waffles right where (and while) the syrup is being made. Come and have lunch in the woods. Bring the kids, grandkids and neighbors to enjoy a unique dining experience and watch how maple sap is turned into maple syrup. We also need volunteers to cook and serve! Call Dave Colligan at 716-832-3611 for more information. A great way to get out in the woods and to watch an age old process while participating in a gourmet treat!



President Don Wagner with quilt raffle ticket buyers at Cabin Fever Festival.

This year's Cabin Fever Festival was another success with 500 cars parked on a balmy Feb. 11th and a smaller number for a blustery 12th. NYFOA's President **Don Wagner** sold dozens of raffle tickets for wife Betty's magnificent quilt, "Adirondack Beauty". If you wish to participate, send one dollar (or more) to **Debbie Gill**, P.O. Box 180, Fairport, 14450, who will provide appropriate numbers.

The building built on site was auctioned

off and brought \$900.00, a steal at that price! A very special demonstration was provided by the construction on site of a model stream bank improvement cribbing by the use of red pine logs planted by US CCC's in the thirties. The project was completed by AMERICORPS Enlistees and supervised by the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District. Forest management - and technical services were offered by NYS DEC Service Forester **Steve Davison**.

ALLEGHENY FOOTHILLS

The AFC co-hosted, with the Cattaraugus County Extension, a program on Forestry for Landowners on January 28 in Ellicottville. It was attended by 150 local landowners. The AFC was in charge of registration and providing lunch for the attendees. We put slightly over \$100.00 in our treasury. Lots of members contributed much time to help make this seminar run smoothly. It was a great success with over 2/3 of the attendees returning a questionnaire, judging from content of same the seminar was greatly enjoyed.

On **April 20** the AFC will co-host again with the County Extension, a program with

the Northeastern Loggers Association: "Logging Doesn't have to be Ugly". Pre-registration is required. **Geoff Jones**, Land Manager for the Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests, will lead the seminar and field trip. The field trip will be to AFC member: **Betty Densmore's** property to discuss logging esthetics. The program begins at 9 a.m. at Ellicottville Extension and goes to 3:30 p.m.. A \$10.00 fee covers registration, lunch and refreshments. Those interested in attending should contact: Jeff Worrall at Northeastern Loggers Association, P.O. Box 69, Old Forge, New York 13420 before April 13 (315) 369-3078.

FORESTRY IN CRISIS

By R. J. Fox, Editor

100 years ago when our forest had been reduced to 25% of the pre-colonial canopy, New Yorkers adopted a program of government directed management of the state's natural resource. It started with regulated harvests in the Adirondacks and a few years later became constitutional protection barring timber harvest of much larger areas acquired by the state in both the Catskill and Adirondack Mountains (today, 3 million acres or 10% of the total land area). Then further acquisitions by the state for parks (today, 260,000 acres), by local municipalities, and by land trusts (60 are currently registered in N. Y.) represent additional very tightly managed acreage. Most significantly the Hewitt Amendment of the thirties provided for land acquisition for reforestation and forest management for our economic future (today, 800,000 acres). And finally, the 1946 Forest Practice Act enabled state service foresters to assist the 500,000 non-industrial private forestowners (NIPFs) who own 83% of the commercial timberland and the forest related industries to better manage and utilize New York's natural bounty, both public and private.

Most of New York's millions might consider our current lush 60% of the original canopy, a job well done; **but done it is not!!** Only a few thousand of NY NIPFs and perhaps 10% of the public lands have management plans. Selling our high quality logs to an overseas market has greatly advanced the price of stumpage: however, (1) without management plans for high quality wood products and multiple use, and (2) with a lack of added-value markets for competitive end products, there will be an inevitable downgrading of the natural resource and New York's future.

Concern for the lack of NIPF management planning prompted the recent 1991 Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP), a national cost share program administered

and supervised by state service foresters. SIP, overwhelmingly supported and oversubscribed in New York, was purposely designed to reach out to NIPFs and directed at sustaining increased multiple use values in the resource.

Furthermore, unregulated or undirected management has been and will be a failure wherever it persists. The free and uninhibited exploitation of natural resources is not sustainable!

Here, then, is the case for government.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Lands and Forests will lose over 20 service foresters if the Governor's proposed budget is not changed. These cuts are not just paper shufflers and bureaucratic fat. These are the foresters that walked with you on your land, in your woods; these are the professionals that mark the state land trees to be harvested and then supervise their removal; these are the resource people that conduct NYFOA workshops, write FOREST OWNER articles, and speak at NYFOA meetings; and these are the foresters that stimulate new uses and industries for the resource and that carry the tradition of a 100 years of constant improvement. If anything we need to increase the service capabilities of NYS DEC Division of Lands and Forests in order to reach the 475,000 non-industrial forest owners without plans, to finish management plans for all the public lands, and to develop added-value to the timber markets by employing more state service foresters, not less. The questions of ecological systems management and biological diversity will rest on their shoulders—if they are there.

There are many lobbying groups in the state of New York competent to represent their constituencies. There is only one group that will lobby for NYS DEC Division of Lands and Forests and that's NYFOA, that's you.

WRITE (Use copies of this editorial, if you like) or PHONE or BOTH:

Governor George E. Pataki
Executive Chamber
State Capital
Albany, NY 12224
(518)457-8390

Senator Michael J. Tully, Jr.
Chairman, Sen. En. Con. Committee
Rm 307 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247
(518)455-2471; FAX(518)432-9868

Assemblyman Richard Brodsky
Chairman, Assembly En. Con. Committee
625 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248
(518)455-5753 FAX(518)455-5920

For your Legislators:
Phone **Debbie Gill** at
NYFOA's Info Number
1-800-836-3566

1995 NY Tree Farm /NYFOA Tour

Location - Paul Smiths College, Paul Smiths, NY

Date - Thursday, July 27 - Sunday, July 30, 1995

Subject - Spruce Grouse/Stewardship Incentive Program Practices

Contact Person - Herbert Boyce, HCR 2 Box IA, Jay, NY 12941. We are looking for slides of SIP practices that have been done by forest owners in NY State. Awards will be given for the best slide which shows a practice under the SIP program. More information on registration and lodging will be in the next issue of the NY Forest Owner.

Handmade Quilt

Betty Wagner, quilt master, has donated handmade "Adirondack Beauty" to NYFOA, a \$1500 value. Proceeds for the 1 dollar ticket to go to NYFOA Chapter/Affiliates.

Send money for raffle tickets to **Debbie Gill**, Box 180, Fairport, NY 14450. She will assign suitable numbers to the stubs and hold for the drawing at the NYFOA Fall Meeting.

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Wisconsin Company Patents Tree

Forgene, Inc., a forest biotechnology company in Rhinelander, Wisconsin, recently announced that it has received a patent on a spruce tree that it claims can grow at twice the normal rate. According to Dr. Neil Nelson, president of Forgene, the United States Patent and Trademark Office has issued the company a patent on "The Super Tree," a genetically-improved white spruce sold under the trade name, "Forgene Elite" White Spruce Hybrids.

Nelson, inventor of the high-tech tree, said the patent marks a first in U.S. patent history. The patent is the first general patent ever granted by the U.S. Patent Office for a tree. Other trees have been granted special patents called plant patents, but until now the Patent Office had not issued the more difficult to achieve general patent protection to a tree. In addition to requiring an invention meet more stringent criteria than plant patents, a general patent provides broader legal protection for an invention. Some propagation processes for other trees have received patents in the past, but not the trees themselves, Nelson says.

"This patent was issued in recognition

of the milestone genetic improvement incorporated in these hybrid trees," he notes. "The 'Super Tree' was developed using high technology genetics."

This means, according to Forgene, that tree farmers can grow their trees to harvest in as little as one half the time required for conventional white spruce. For example, the "Forgene Elite" White Spruce Hybrids will be ready for harvesting for pulpwood for paper production at 20 years, Forgene says, compared to a wild white spruce which would take 40 years to reach merchantable pulpwood size.

For sawtimber the contrast is 40 years for the hybrids versus 80 years for normal white spruce. This means that the same volume of wood can be produced on one-half the land area required for regular white spruce. "Now it is possible to grow more trees using less space and in less time than was possible before," Nelson says adding that "the environmental, financial, and economic implications of this breakthrough are obvious"

"This is an excellent example of how technology and creativity have the poten-

tial to improve both the economy and the environment simultaneously."

White spruce is one of the most important tree species in North America. Approximately 150 million seedlings of this species are planted each year in the United States and Canada. In the Lake States of Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan alone, almost 30,000 acres per year are planted with white spruce. It is prized by the paper industry as a pulpwood because its long fibers are desirable in higher quality paper products. It is also a major lumber species and an important Christmas tree.

Nelson said the hybrid spruce trees are suitable for planting throughout the northern one-half of the United States, including Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. They also are appropriate for most of Canada. Several major paper companies are planting them on their lands in the northern U.S.

From *NORTHERN LOGGER*, December 1994

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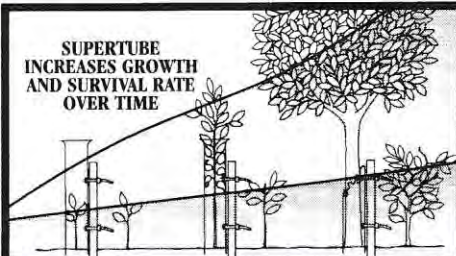
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The Tao of Woodstacking

By Patricia Kay

*Thirty spokes share the wheel's hub;
It is the center hole that makes it useful.
Shape clay into a vessel;
It is the space within that makes it useful.
Cut doors and windows for a room;
It is the holes which make it useful.
Therefore profit comes from what is there;
Usefulness from what is not there.*

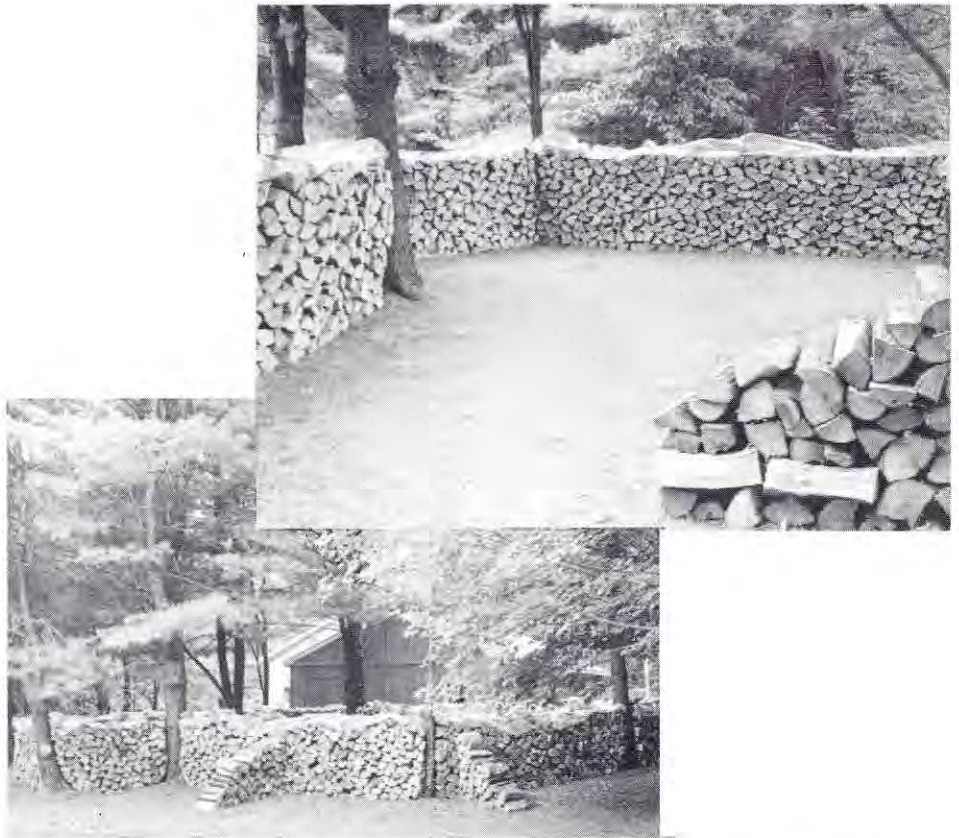
...Lao Tsu from the Tao Te Ching

I started stacking firewood for the first time when I moved to the Northeast ten years ago. Since burning wood is the primary source of heating that my husband and I use during the winter, I have had much practice and have committed many hours to the Tao of woodstacking. Tao! You might be saying. What does Taoism have to do with woodstacking? Isn't Tao an Eastern philosophy?

Taoism teaches balance and harmony within one's entire self to the divine order of all things. Everything has a place and a purpose, profit and usefulness, yin and yang — opposites that can harmonize together. Woodstacking, when done properly, is all of these things. While woodstacking I have had the luxury of wandering thoughts; I have come to realize that the piecing together of firewood is similar to the piecing together of humankind as related to the spirit — to Taoism.

Woodstacking needs to begin with a solid foundation. The base needs to be strong and stable. Therefore it is best to place big, precise, evenly shaped pieces, packed tightly together on the bottom. This ground row needs to consist of hardwoods like maple, cherry or oak—wood that is troublesome to start a fire with, but will coal and hold the heat once burning. The softer hardwoods like poplar or birch must not touch the ground as they will rot over time, but they will be the wood you use to light the fire. All other rows need not have such perfect pieces and any species of wood is acceptable.

As the stack rises upward use the pieces with knobs and protruding branch knolls to even the stack, so it does not lean to one side or the other. Small pieces, half pieces and the round unsplit branch pieces fit nicely into the gaps created by the big triangular pieces. Diversity is what makes a strong stack that will last through the tough, harsh winter and withstand the howling, forceful north winds. And when it comes



time to burn the wood, a good mixture of size and kind will provide the best heat.

At last you will come to the top of the woodstack. This is where all those pieces that just did not seem to fit anywhere else belong. These are the craggy, misshapen oddball pieces. Although these pieces lack the conformity of all the others they provide heat as well as any piece in the pile. They are just as useful. They top off the pile and they will hold the plastic protective covering. They are essential and important.

Diversity in humankind is what will create a lasting and vital society upon the planet. Finding harmony within the different dimensions of the human spirit will produce a solid base and a strong upward development that will lead to simple happiness and a greater understanding of life. Acceptance of all aspects of the human race will provide a complete life of deep spirituality. Those people on the top of the pile, the people of our society who are not perfect—the handicapped, the misfits, the slow, the retarded, the diseased, the abnormal—are also essential. They are important and have a place just like the people at the base and everywhere in between. All

are significant to our society. All are on the same path reaching for the same goals and visions. A gap at any place would make society incomplete and render the stack unstable.

The sage, Chuang-Tzu, said regarding Kindling a Fire: "When the fingers have no more kindling to put in, the fire goes on burning, unaware that it's gone. The physical body is like fuel; fire is the spirit. Those who nurture the physical body are nurturing life; this is keeping the fuel. Those who nurture the spirit are nurturing the master of nurturing life; this is keeping the fire."

Both the fuel and the fire, the vessel and the space within, the perfect and the imperfect are essential to the totality of the whole. Erecting a stack of wood or building a healthy society requires discipline—a discipline of physical, mental and spiritual self-cultivation. This is the Tao of woodstacking and the things I think about while preparing for the winter to come.

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Patricia Kay is a professional photographer. She and her husband own forest land in Galway and are active members of the Southeastern Adirondack Chapter.

THE OAK TWIG PRUNER

By Douglas C. Allen

This wood-boring insect is a chronic problem in many areas of New York, and it seemed especially prevalent throughout much of the state in 1993 and 1994.

Description

The adult is a slender, grayish brown beetle 0.5" to 0.8" long with antennae that are the same length as or slightly longer than its body. It is these unusually long "feelers" that give the family to which it belongs the common name "longhorned beetles". The dorsal surface or "back" of the beetle is clothed with irregular patches of fine, grayish hairs.

Larvae (lar-vee), the worm-like immature stages that actually do the damage, are legless and distinctly segmented with well developed mouthparts. When full grown the larva (lar-vah) is the same length as the adult and has distinct long yellow hairs on the large and slightly swollen body segment immediately behind the head. Its body is creamy white (Fig. 1).

Hosts

Though considered mainly a problem of oak throughout the eastern United States, oak twig pruner has been observed on at least 15 other species of trees and shrubs. As a rule, however, open grown oaks of parks, roadsides, hedgerows, or lawns are most susceptible.

Habits

Following emergence in spring and early summer, beetles deposit eggs at the



Fig. 2. End view of an oak branch severed by the twig pruner. Arrow indicates chip plug.

tips of branches in the upper angles where a leaf joins the twig (leaf axils). Initially, larvae are very small and bore only a short distance into the twig where they feed beneath the bark. Eventually, each larva continues boring to the center of the shoot and excavates a longitudinal gallery (Fig. 1) towards the base. As autumn approaches, the fully grown larva moves outward from the center of the shoot back to the region immediately beneath the bark. It does this by making concentric circular cuts in the wood. Following this activity, the infested branch is held in place only by the bark and a thin layer of outer wood. Once this

"pruning" is completed, the larva returns to its gallery in the center of the twig. The end of the gallery is exposed at the point where the twig is "pruned". To protect itself from the elements, and probably certain natural enemies, the larva plugs this



Fig. 1. Twig pruner larva in an oak twig.

American Elm

By J.E. Coufal

Like ants, you marched across the landscape;
stolid, towering, strength for the ages.
You found footholds in hedgerows,
stood at attention along roadsides,
and for those who ventured to look,
you mixed with ash and red maple in wetscapes.

In hamlets, villages, and cities
you lined the streetsides,
posing as servants holding umbrellas
high above the powerlines,
higher yet above the power-wielders.
And the only words of complaint were
that your seeds clogged gutters and drains
in a display of fruitful plenty each year.

In a generation you were decimated

potent beetle/fungi combination

now you stand lonely
awaiting random chance
withering.

©

opening with fibrous wood chips (Fig. 2). Each larva overwinters in one of these galleries.

Damage

The first evidence of an infestation is the appearance of branch tips with fading or off-color foliage that eventually turns brown. Heavy damage may detract from the aesthetic appearance of oak, but this insect will not kill the tree.

A strong wind breaks most infested branches at the point where mature larvae chewed their way from the center of a twig outwardly to beneath the bark. Some of these branches, along with their inhabitants, do not break off but merely droop and remain attached. Most of them drop to the ground, however, and a large number of branch tips one to three feet long with dead foliage typically accumulate beneath an infested tree (Fig. 3). The base of each broken twig has a smooth "cut", as if clipped or pruned (hence the common name); and the fibrous plug placed at the end of the overwintering tunnel may be visible (Fig. 2). If you split open one of these twigs, you may find the overwintering larva (Fig. 1).

Management

Populations on individual trees may be eliminated, certainly substantially reduced, by picking up the broken twigs in the fall and destroying them. Damage can reappear the following year, if infested twigs remain on the tree or beetles invade from adjacent areas. Generally, however, repeated removal and destruction of infested tips will

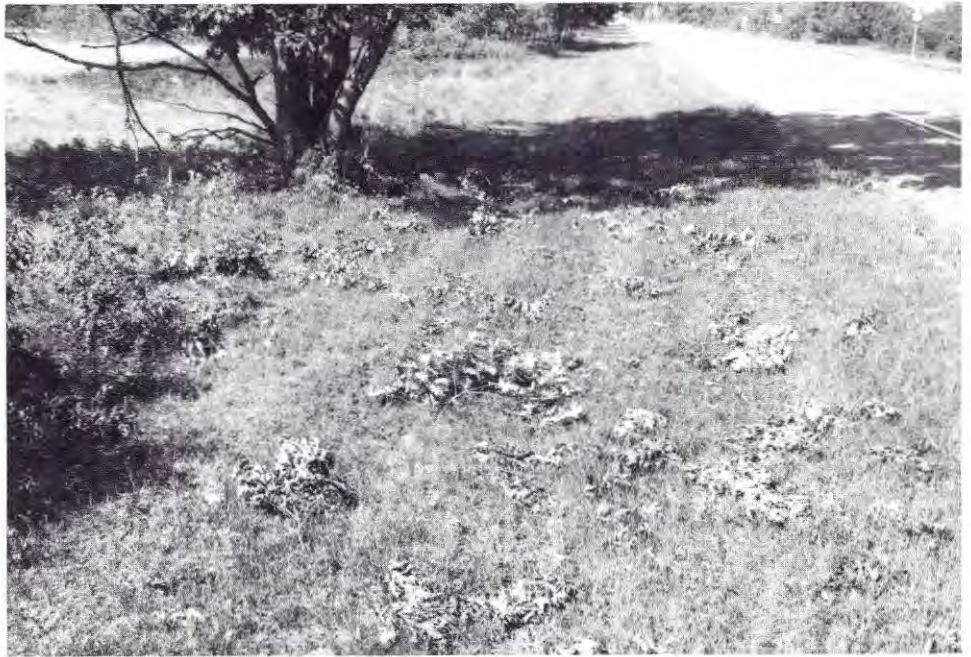


Fig. 3. Oak twigs that fell to the ground as a result of twig pruner damage.

keep beetle populations at tolerable levels on individual trees.

Often damaged twigs are empty because larvae become dislodged when the twig falls or birds remove larvae before the twigs drop. These are two important causes of mortality.

This is the 19th in the series of articles contributed by Dr. Allen, Professor of Forest Entomology at SUNY/ESF. Reprints of the series may be obtained by request.

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FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS

By David J. Colligan

In response to my article in the last issue of *The Forest Owner* "What'll You Do With The Farm When You're Gone?", questions have been raised regarding family limited partnerships as an estate planning tool. Since my last article outlined the many advantages, the possible disadvantages will be mentioned here.

The family limited partnership works best when an "income-producing" or "actively managed" asset is transferred into a limited partnership by the grantor to be distributed to the grantor's heirs without any division or sale of the underlying asset. The IRS does not permit a personal residence or a vacation home (together with a reasonable lot associated therewith) to be part of the family limited partnership. However, even if you live on your tree farm, the re-

mainder of the tree farm can be placed into a limited partnership.

Besides recordkeeping and other legal formalities previously mentioned, the major drawback of a family limited partnership is that the tax basis of the assets gifted prior to death is the donor's tax basis. On the other hand, if the property is held at the time of death, it passes through the estate; and the tax basis in the property is "stepped up" to date of death values. This "step up" is particularly valuable if an immediate post-death sale of the asset is contemplated. While obtaining a stepped up basis for capital gains purposes, any asset passed through an estate may be subject to estate taxes, which for taxable estates greater than \$600,000.00 start at 37 percent (43 percent if state estate taxes are included.)

Most tree farmers can actually reduce their taxable estates by utilizing the family limited partnership to transfer gift tax free up to \$10,000.00 of discounted "units" to specific beneficiaries each year or \$20,000.00 to each beneficiary if a spouse joins in the gift. This phased-in transfer, including the transfer of the right to manage a tree farm, over a period of years as permitted by the family limited partnership is often more valuable as an estate tax reduction technique than the eventual income tax consequences if and when the asset is sold. Feel free to call me at (716) 852-3540 with your questions.

Dave Colligan is a practicing attorney with a Buffalo law firm and serves NYFOA as our legislative liaison.

UPDATE: Timber Theft and Trespass

NYFOA has applied to the NY Stewardship Committee for funding assistance for a three part initiative on curtailing timber trespass and timber theft. The initiative spans all elements of timber trespass and theft by involving the landowner, the wood products industry and the law enforcement community. The three parts - "Landowner Education", "Harvesting Professionalism", and "Law Enforcement and Prosecution Improvement" - are programmatically intertwined and would be advanced simultaneously.

We are hopeful that the Stewardship funds available to the State this Spring will be adequate to help us along with this program, but at this writing, it's too soon to know.

In the meantime, a few responses already have been received from our request for comments in the Jan- Feb Forest Owner and we are hoping for many more (see box below).

Here's what a few of our readers have

experienced:

EMcG, an absentee owner, writes that several years ago a logger working on a neighboring property had cut some of her maples and was even loading from her property because the neighbor's loading area was impassable from mud. An attorney who had had experience with these same loggers on an earlier occasion recovered damages out of court. EMcG's admonition: "Non-resident owners need to be on the alert!"

HW was not as fortunate, as pointed out in the letter; "Even when I could prove who took it <the timber> I could do no more than prevent a reoccurrence in my woods (I hope) but by that time I had lost an enormous amount." In this case, the theft was apparently for a specialized use: only one species was taken and the logs were cut to relatively short lengths. This prompted the writer to suggest that perhaps better information on markets would have helped to track down the thief and that since

prosecution is difficult, maybe markets could be persuaded to obtain some kind of proof that what they are buying is not stolen. HW's reminder to us all: "In small neighborhoods we may know who is not honest, but further from home no one knows who is a thief".

In preparing for a timber sale, JF and a neighbor had a boundary disagreement, which was resolved after a professional survey of JF's entire farm. The line was blazed at close intervals and the marks painted orange. The sale went well. Subsequently, a different neighbor had a timber sale and the logger helped himself to the blazed trees along that part of the boundary and a number of cherry trees 50 feet over the line. The state police (this was not in NY) talked to the thieves, who denied everything. The police said it was a civil matter, not criminal, and closed the case without even fully checking it out. An experienced attorney agreed with JF on the timber theft, but didn't want to waste his money on what would be a "hopeless case". The local judge did send the thieves a letter saying "don't do it again". JM concludes: "Not a happy situation but probably realistic".

Thanks to all of you who have written. Some of these contributors mentioned dollar amounts in their letters - staggering! And some comments on insurance and other aspects will be explored further and reported on in the future.

SURVEY

- * How serious do you think timber trespass and theft are? If you know of any examples, please share the circumstances and the amount of the loss with us.
 - * Who are the interested parties in timber theft and trespass? Please send your suggestions on individuals, groups, associations, businesses, industries, professions, publications, and agencies that have an interest or might help.
 - * What are the most effective ways to reach as many landowners as possible with the message - Be informed! Get advice! BEFORE you sell! What other steps should be taken?
 - * In what ways would you be willing to help ?
- Please share your insights and ideas by writing today to: NYFOA, c/o Ronald W. Pedersen, 22 Vandenburg Lane, Latham, NY 12110-1189.

Ask A Forester: Tree Shelters?

By Bruce E. Robinson

First experiments with tree shelters began in Great Britain less than 15 years ago. Plastic wrapped around a wire tree guard showed promise in curbing browsing by deer. The shelter of today not only reduces damage by deer, but accelerates diameter and height growth of most species as well as reducing losses due to drought.

The microclimate within the shelter will be several degrees warmer than air outside the shelter. At the same time, relative humidity remains significantly higher than outside the shelter during the entire day. When both of these factors are considered within the tube where air movement is minimal, water loss is reduced and CO₂ intake is increased. The result is increased growth.

Planting hardwoods with tree shelters represents a significant investment (shelter, seedling and labor will likely exceed \$5.00). Their use may make the difference in establishing hardwoods, however, and I encourage experimentation. Plant oak, for



A SIP-cost-shared red oak 2-acre plantation interplanted with black locust owned by R. Fox in Moravia.

example, with oak alternating with spruce in every other row. The eight foot spacing within the row and ten foot spacing between rows makes possible a hardwood planting with spacing of 16 x 20 feet. Only 136 oaks with shelters and 408 spruce would complete the acre. The fast growing oak will outgrow the spruce while benefitting from the competition. What food producing potential this has for wildlife! Tree shelters are easily used. They must be rigid tubes supported by stakes. White oak is generally used due to its greater durability. The stake should not rise above the tube or friction damage to the moving top will result. A bird net is placed over the top to prevent attempted bird nesting (especially by bluebirds).

Weed control is essential. A three foot weed-free circumference at the base will reduce rodent damage and, of course, reduce competition.

Regular maintenance is desirable. Broken stakes, missing nets and tipped tubes must be given attention. Replacements may be made or the tube transferred to another tree in the event of mortality.

Some trees which normally have super growth (especially from sprouts) may not benefit from shelters. Black walnut may be forced to grow very fast as a sprout and may not survive - **whether or not a shelter is used**. Experimentation is needed to determine if some benefit might result from short (1 month) use of a tube.

This author believes tree shelters to be wonderful tools for wildlife plantings. They surely beat the sign which reads "Do Not Eat Until Maturity". Scattered oak in shelters throughout a thornapple pasture will

speed succession while feeding wildlife. Tree shelters make possible including hardwoods in our management programs. Wildlife benefit and economic investment is justified.

Bruce Robinson is a private consulting forester who has volunteered his expertise to many NYFOA Chapter events.

Owners Speak

I planted almost 100 red oaks in the spring of '92 and after three growing seasons more than half are above the 5 foot tree shelters with less than 10% mortality. They were started from sprouted acorns with mowing between rows and occasional use of Round-Up around the base. 200 two-year black walnut seedlings were similarly planted but with mixed results. Many tops died back due to the walnut's susceptibility to hardening off problems in tree shelters. Site and soil conditions may also be a factor. As I plant more hardwoods, I intend to plant "nurse" trees in between to train growth beyond shelters. —**Bob Sykes, Skaneateles**

In 1992 we planted 640 white oak seedlings at our farm in Springwater: results have been mixed. A high percentage of the trees are doing well; however, some tree shelters have been knocked down by animals or blown over and some of the plastic straps have broken. Weeds grow in some of the shelters and crowd the tree. The shelters should be checked once per year. We have 12 tree shelters in our yard these have produced outstanding results with regular inspection. —**John Krebs, Honeoye Falls**

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ROCKIN' AND RIDIN'

By Jane Sorensen Lord

Thirty-six inches at the withers made him huge for his species. With a white flowing nylon unraveled rope mane and a grand tail, he was a burnished, shimmering oak palomino. Long rockers with stops prevented accidents while allowing a smooth Tennessee Walker rocking ride.

He was an especially designed adult rocking horse made to meet the challenge of stress.

When I am not doing things with trees I'm doing things with people. As an Occupational Therapist, I am trained to assist people to succeed mentally and physically. I prescribe activity that will enhance, heal or rehabilitate body and soul. Unlike many OTs, I also work with normal every-day people who are trying to expand their horizons with greater insight, skill and control.

In the late eighties stress and its control became more and more of an issue and many health care providers sought techniques that allowed people to diminish their response to stress and all kinds of gimmicks flooded the market—squish balls, mental computers, undulating lights and the like. People got more interested in activity and sports. What stimulated my thinking was a catalogue of items aimed at the ex-



Jane Sorensen Lord

ecutive for his office which included rowing machines and stationary bikes.

Wood. Wood, I kept thinking. Besides being a Tree Farmer, as a therapist, I know how soothing the feel of wood is. It would relieve stress faster than cold steel and plastic. But what?

I was musing my concerns to a friend who makes rustic furniture as a profitable hobby. He enthusiastically joined my thinking to create an executive something.

One time on a visit, when I saw his new works, he had made a small rocking horse for a two year old.

"Keeps them calm and out of trouble," he said.

"Could you make one to carry 190 pound forty year olds? It would do the same for them."

"Far out!"

A week later Rockin' was fondly and good-humoredly delivered to his training corral in my family room. Sturdy and stable with raised foot bars and a fat seat he stood on a thick carpet (to pad falls). He didn't tip over sideways or frontwards when I hoisted myself onto his back and rocked. It was fun and felt good.

A few hours later, when I came back into the room, my husband, Gordon, was on the horse. He grinned sheepishly, when he saw me.

Rockin' was with us for about a month. There was not a soul who walked into the room without asking to try riding. And there was not a soul who didn't grin, giggly, as they rocked away.

The horse was taken into NYC to exhibit his sturdiness and test theory. He stayed for three years in the T-Shirt Gallery on Lexington Ave. The store was always busy with hip Americans and International tourists who bought avant garde T-shirts. And since The Gallery made lots of custom shirts for businesses and groups, Rockin' was well exposed—and used! Everyone was fascinated and wanted to ride him. The varnish wore off his rockers. But only one person wanted and bought a horse of their own.

We were a clinical success, but a business failure. Although, we did find out from the one horse we sold, that we would not have made as much profit as we had figured. Rockin's were so large that they had to be shipped individually crated by private truckers; because they were too big for usual commercial carriers like UPS. We thought about knocking them down for



Gordon Lord

people to assemble; but I was afraid they would follow directions improperly, and that the horse would be unstable or un-safe. In addition, Rockin' would not have been so handsome without plastic wood fillings on the joints to match the golden oak.

When the T-Shirt Gallery went wholesale only and closed its retail store, Rockin' was put out to pasture. Now he lives at S. Kaufman and Sons Saddlery Company, at 419 Park Ave. South. He doesn't get ridden anymore, but passerbys can see him in the window or inside proudly displaying fine tack and beautiful riding accessories.

He was such a fine steed, such a good ride that I felt badly when I heard of his retirement from rocking. But he wouldn't be appreciated anymore than he is by his current owners, nor could he have a better address!

Jane Sorensen Lord is a regular contributor to the NY FOREST OWNER. Jane and her husband Gordon are Master Forest Owners and manage a Certified Tree Farm in Orange County.

The Marketplace

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WOODLOT CALENDAR

Mar 14: THRIFT; 12-3PM; For. Mgmt. video teleconference; M. Brower; Oswego Co. Extension Mexico (315)963-7286.

Mar 16: CNY; 6:30PM; Potluck Supper St. Paul's Methodist; Syracuse (315)673-3691

Mar 18: NFC; Pancake Fundraiser; Dave Colligan's Sugar Shack; Glenwood (716)832-3611

Mar 21: WFL; 7:30PM; TBA; Cornell Extension; Rochester; Dale Schaefer (716)367-2849 eve.

Mar 25: CFA; 1-4PM; Forestry Forum; Liberty (914) 586-3054

Mar 26: NAC; 10-3PM; Surveys & Road Workshop; Wanakena Ranger School; D. Howard (315)265-7560

Apr 1: CFA; 1-4PM; SUNY-Cobleskill (914) 586-3054

Apr 20: AFC; 9-3:30PM; "Logging doesn't Have To Be Ugly"; Ellicottville Extension; J. Worrall (315)369-3078

Apr 22: CNY; 10AM; Woodswalk; TBA (315)673-3691

Apr 22: WFL; 10AM; Woodswalk after 2 year sale; Honeoye (716)367-2849 eve

Apr 29: NYFOA SPRING MEETING; Marshall Hall; SUNY-ESF; Syracuse, see insert, 1-800-836-3566

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Nominations for Directors of the Association

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Jill Cornell, semi-retired psychotherapist, owns and manages with her husband Barry a 168 acre farm including 50 acres of forest. NYFOA member since 1992, Jill is a Master Forest Owner and Vice-Chair of the Capital District Chapter. She successfully planted hardwoods (SIP) and had a timber sale contracting with a consulting forester. Jill is on her town planning board and takes a keen interest in wild flowers and perennial garden plants.
RR 1 Box 38, Johnsville, NY 12094-9725 Phone: 518-753-4336

Elizabeth Densmore joined NYFOA in 1989 when the Allegheny Foothills Chapter was formed and served two years as its Chair. Started the AFC/NFC newsletter in 1990 and has continued as its editor. Won the AFC Outstanding Service Award in 1993, and was elected director of NYFOA. She is serving on the NYFOA Editorial Committee as its Chair since 1994 and co-chaired the leadership seminar for chapter leaders and editors. Betty owns 448 acres about half of which is forested, and served on the Board of the Nannen Arboretum in Ellicottville, NY.
8228 S. Canada Hill Road, Machias, NY 14101 Phone: 716-942-6600

Donna K. Rogler, is the Director of Education for the Catskill Forest Association (a NYFOA Affiliate), conducting educational activities for members, landowners, teachers and school children. She worked in the forest industry, the Indiana Dept., of Natural Resources and at SUNY/ESF as Administrative Assistant, Faculty of Forestry. Donna has a long standing interest in the educational aspect of forest management, for her graduate project at ESF she developed a newsletter for forest landowners. She also holds a masters degree in Instructional Development.
P.O. Box 336, Arkville, NY 12406 Phone: 914-586-3054

Robert M. Sand retired after 41 years as Chief Forester for Cotton Hanlon, Inc. Presently serves NYFOA as recording secretary as well as on several committees. Member and past chairman of the N.Y. Society Of American Foresters. Recipient of the 1988 Heiberg Award. Bob is a past president and director of NYFOA. He owns and actively manages forest property in New York State.
300 Church Street, Odessa, NY 14869-9703 Phone: 607-594-2130

Robert A. Sykes retired from General Electric after a 36 year career in engineering. Bob and his wife Marge manage a 120 acre tree farm on which they live. The property is managed for wildlife, recreation and timber. Pasture land is planted with black walnut and red oak; timber is processed in a recently acquired saw mill. Bob is a Master Forest Owner and is currently serving as Chair of the Central N.Y. Chapter of NYFOA.
4786 Foster Road, Elbridge, NY 13060 Phone: 315-673-3691

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N Y F O A c/o Deborah Gill, Admin. Sec'y, PO Box 180, Fairport, NY 14450

BALLOT: VOTE FOR FOUR (4) DIRECTORS

Term: 3 years 1995-1998

JILL CORNELL___ **ELIZABETH DENSMORE**___ **DONNA K. ROGLER**___
ROBERT M. SAND___ **ROBERT A. SYKES**___

Please Vote for FOUR Candidates ONLY. The runner-up will be a candidate should the Board have a vacancy.

Name: _____ Address: _____

**New York Forest Owners Association
33rd Annual Spring Meeting
Saturday, April 29, 1995**

Meeting Site: Marshall Hall, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY

PROGRAM

- 8:30** Registration
- 9:30** Welcome Bill Miner, VP-NYFOA
- 9:35** Annual Membership Business Meeting
President's Report
Executive Director's Report
Treasurers Report
Chapter Report
- 10:30** Non-Industrial Private Forest Owners: A National Perspective
Keith Argow, Ph. D.
National Woodland Owners Association
Vienna, Virginia
- 11:15** Crop Tree Management
Neil Lampson
U.S. Forest Service
Durham, New Hampshire
- 12:00** Lunch
- 1:00** Awards, Bob Sand
- 1:30** GIS, GPS and Remote Sensing: New Mapping Technologies for Forestry,
Jeff Nugent
Northern Forest Lands Inventory
SUNY ESF
- 1:50** nyforestsONLINE*
Daniel McGough
NYS Center for Forestry Research & Development
SUNY ESF
- 2:15** Visual Qualities: Perceptions of Timber Harvest*
Robin Hoffman
Landscape Architecture
SUNY ESF
- 2:35** Program Evaluation / Adjournment

** The afternoon speakers will have demonstrations / discussions immediately following the close of the program.*

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REGISTRATION FORM NYFOA 33rd Annual Spring Meeting

Name(s): _____

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Please find my check for registration(s) at \$16 each Total enclosed: \$

Send registrations to: Debbie Gill
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