

*The New York*

# ***FOREST OWNER***

A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association

May/June 1995



- **Westchester County** •
- **Northern Forest Lands Council** •
- **Light** •

# THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNER

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# FOREST OWNER

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

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

Please address all membership fees and change of address requests to P.O. Box 180, Fairport, N.Y. 14450. Cost of individual membership subscription is \$20.

## Northern Forest Lands



*A concentration yard of Northern Forests' logs owned by Great Lakes Veneer at the Port Authority of Oswego. Fort Ontario in the background. See page 7.*

### Table of Contents

President's Message, Don Wagner .....	3
Westchester County Parks, Ted Kozlowski .....	5
Northern Forest Lands Council, Robert Bendick .....	7
NY Forest Inventory, Henry Kernan .....	11
Chapter/Affiliates .....	12
Ask A Forester, Robert Howard .....	14
Gall Making Insects, Douglas Allen .....	16
Light, Peter Levatich .....	18
What Size Your Logs?, Peter Levatich .....	20
On Early Spring Herbs, Jane Sorensen Lord .....	18

**COVER:** New York City skyline with Westchester County's Dunwoodie Golf Course in the foreground.

Photo by Ted Kozlowski

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A \$750 donation is a generous gift by any standard. That is exactly the amount of money donated to NYFOA by the hard working, fun loving members from the **Allegheny Foothills Chapter**. At the AFC's meeting of February 11th, the membership agreed to the conditions and the amount. The intent is to purchase a promotional display board. The display board is to be kept available for the Executive Director or any Chapter/Affiliate to use at an appropriate public gathering, fair, convention, etc... to promote both the local Chapter/Affiliate and the organization as a whole. The balance of the \$750 may be spent by the Board of Directors without restrictions. I want to take this opportunity to thank AFC for their extremely thoughtful and generous gift. It will be long remembered.

My wife, Betty, has made excellent progress on the raffle quilt. As promised, it was completed in time to display at the annual Spring Meeting. Literally several hundred hours were spent on this volunteer project. All we need to do is spend a little time selling tickets. Sell them to your friends, neighbors, co-workers or anyone else you can think of, they will thank you if they win. Tickets are available from your Chapter/Affiliate Chair, Debbie Gill, or me. Remember this raffle is a fund raiser to increase the amount of money in your respective treasuries; so that NYFOA can continue



*President Don Wagner "makin' little ones outa big ones."*

to progress and be a strong, vibrant organization, actively participating in New York forests' future.

For your information, the **Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service** has announced a national videoconference on ecosystem management for woodland owners. The program is being broadcast by satellite on **Saturday, May 20, 1995**. I have

sent information on this free program to your Chapter/Affiliate Chairs and have asked them to share the details. If you are interested in this videoconference, contact them or me.

As in past years, NYFOA will co-sponsor the **New York State Woodsmen's Field Days Public Seminar on Friday, August 18, 1995**. This year's topic is Forestry, Watersheds, Timber Theft and Politics. If you can help out, give Dave Taber a call at 607/255-2826. I'm sure he would be grateful.

Last month I received a nice letter from George Blackburn. One of the greatest joys I have had over the past two years is the time I have spent communicating with fellow NYFOAN's. George, good luck with your project. That's right, two years have past and my Presidency ends at this year's Spring Meeting. To some of you it may have seemed like forever, but for me it went by very quickly. I want to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Directors, past and present Chapter/Affiliate leaders, and all of you for your support. It has been a real pleasure to serve NYFOA. Old Presidents don't go away, they just spend more time in their woodlot. As you can see in the photo, I have already started. I will be helping the **Central New York Chapter** at their **Family Forest Fair** this **June**. Hope to see you there.

## RIGHT TO PRACTICE FORESTRY ACT

March 7, 1995 in regular session of the NYS Assembly, an Act (A5340) was introduced by Member of the Assembly Parment that would provide for "The Right to Practice Forestry" and that would bar unreasonable land use regulations by any authority to do so! This bill was referred to the Assembly's Committee on Environmental Conservation, where your comments may be addressed to: Richard L. Brodsky, Rm. 625, Legislative Office Building; Albany, NY 12248. Such legislation has the support of the State Forest Practice Board and representatives of the forest industry. A copy of the bill (A5340) may be obtained by request at 1-800-342-9860; (Legislative Bill Drafting Commission, bill status).

## AN ACT TO SAVE THE CHESTNUT

January 25, 1995 Assemblymen Pordum and McEneny introduced A1855 which provides for an appropriation of \$100, 000 to the Department of Environmental Conservation from the general fund. Funds with which the DEC Commissioner will develop an "American Chestnut fungus disease research and restoration program" by entering into agreements with institutions of higher learning. After referral to the Agricultural Committee, this bill was moved to the Assembly's Committee on Ways and Means. Your support for this bill may be directed to: Herman D. Farrell Jr., Chairperson Committee on Ways and Means, Rm. 923 Legislative Office Building; Albany, NY 12248. — *Editor*

# Forest Stewardship Workshop II

## 1995 NYS Tree Farm Meeting

LOCATION: Paul Smiths College, Paul Smiths, NY

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

Subject: Spruce Grouse / Forest Stewardship

Who's invited: Everyone, Tree Farmers, NYFOA, Foresters, any one interested in learning.

Activities: Thursday and Friday will devoted to the management of the Fools Hen (Spruce Grouse) in the Adirondacks and the management of their Spruce - Fir habitat.

Saturday and Sunday will be devoted to numerous topics including Forest Stewardship practices, Burning in NYS, a new management tool, Timber Theft, Rights to practice forestry, Private property rights, and much more! ! Registration information: Contact Herbert Boyce at HCR2, Box 1A, Jay NY 12941 We will be mailing registration forms to all Tree Farmers and NYFOA members.

Slide (Photo) Contest: We are looking to find examples of good Forest Stewardship Practices in NYS. OBJECTIVE: To show others what we as good stewards are doing in and around our forest. The slides will be presented in a slide show at the July meeting. We hope everyone will participate and give us a great selection of slides showing their management ideas from timber and wildlife to recreation and the unusual. This will be the best chance we have as a group to gather ideas from others and to see these projects without going to every corner of the state. We hope you will also take home a lot of great ideas.

To make this a success we need color or black and white slides of your management practices. There will be awards given for the best practice in each of the following categories:

- 1.) Reforestation and Afforestation
- 2.) Forest and Agroforest Improvement
- 3.) Hedgerow and Wind Brake Establishment.
- 4.) Soil and Water Protection and Improvement.
- 5.) Riparian and Wetland Protection and Improvement.
- 6.) Fisheries Habitat Enhancement.
- 7.) Wildlife Habitat Enhancement.
- 8.) Forest Recreation Enhancement.
- 9.) Miscellaneous entries - Surprise us!

Rules: Only a few;

- 1.) Mail Slides to: Northwoods Forest Improvements, Herbert Boyce, HCR2 Box 1A, Jay, NY 12941
- 2.) How many slides: Please limit it to no more than 20. (One slide per project)
- 3.) Enclose a short description of each slide, date project was completed and if it was used under SIP.
- 4.) Please include your name and mailing address.
- 5.) Entries must be in by June 10, 1995.
- 6.) Slides must be developed. Undeveloped film will not be accepted.
- 7.) You do not need to be present to win, but we hope you will attend. All slides will become property of the Tree Farm Program so that we may use them for future activities.

# Forestry & Biodiversity in Westchester Parks

By Ted Kozlowski

Today, as most of us are aware, the term forestry has an ever encompassing meaning; and here in Westchester County it is very important to our Department and to the people we serve. Our management of the 15,000 acres of parkland is not judged by how many board feet we produce but is judged on the quality of the programs we offer and diversity of the environment we maintain.

Before one can appreciate what I am about to state, some background information is necessary. The Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation has jurisdiction of 42 facilities throughout the county totaling 15,248 acres. Our largest park, Ward Pound Ridge Reservation is 4,315 acres and our smallest, Washington's Headquarters is .6 acre. Approximately 80 percent of this land is forested, mostly with a upland central hardwood cover type. Of the 42 facilities, 5 are golf courses, 5 are public pools, 5 nature centers, 2 historic sites, 1 County Center, Playland Park and the Bronx River Parkway Reservation. We are very diverse indeed. However, the common denominator to all our parkland is trees. We have approximately 27 million of them.

Westchester is the first county north of New York City. Our county contains nearly 1 million residents, many who commute to the Big Apple. Our communities are quite diverse and range from the very affluent to low income inner city. There are major cities and somewhat rural areas, and yes, even some farms still remain.

As with all governmental agencies, our department is supported by the tax base and our policies are formulated with much public input. Westchester has experienced tremendous development after World War II and our open space area has conversely decreased. Recreation, leisure time and open space have become very important to our residents and their desires have been

voiced many times and in many different ways. Our thousands of annual visitors expect to see a forested environment, untouched and left alone. They are there for many reasons but first and foremost it is to recreate in an outdoor environment. It is our responsibility to insure they have a variety of opportunities and to enjoy them

close to public access are rendered safe by heavy pruning practices and left standing. Many of our take downs are felled in the forest and left on site. Limbs will be piled, again, for the benefit of wildlife habitat. We have produced "wildlife tree" signs that are nailed onto a dead tree as an educational tool for the visiting public.

Our forestry program reaches beyond just tree care in picnic areas. At Lasdon Park and Arboretum in Somers, we have dedicated 5 acres of land for American chestnut research where we are planting 50-100 seedlings per year. On a separate 3 acre parcel at Lasdon we have found 20 surviving native chestnuts where we have harvested competing oaks, sold them for timber, and have placed the money into our County Parks Tree Trust fund to use for the maintenance of the chestnuts. In cooperation with the American Chestnut Foundation and the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station we have formed a partnership to manage these trees using current techniques like hypovirulent injection for blight control. Our efforts have garnished 100 home-grown chestnuts which have been successfully germinated into new seedlings. Our hope is to establish the non-fatal hypovirulent fungus in our area as well as serve as an educational center for the public.

In addition to the chestnut program at Lasdon we have established a dogwood research plot, transplanted 9 rare yellow magnolias from the former Brooklyn Botanic Garden Research Station and created a 26 Famous and Historic Tree Grove which combines history and botany with a nature trail.

As we are a parks department and because we do capital improvements, it is sometimes necessary to remove many trees. We actively pursue locating buyers for our timber products from these land clearing activities and from routine maintenance

safely. The message sent to us by our public constituents is that our forests are to be islands of preserves within the sea of development.

But this does not mean that the management of our parkland forests is non-management. It is quite the contrary. True, we have thousands of acres of forest left unaltered from active forest practice but where and when we engage our forest management practice is very important to our public, to forestry as a profession, and to our natural resources.

A primary goal as alluded to earlier is the safety of our visiting public. Constant inspection of trails, roadways, picnic and camping sites are a never ending part of our program. Because there is little TSI and the advanced age of our forests, hazard trees are ever present. Aggressive training of our small tree crew and park workers are paramount to the success of our vigilance. But not all hazard trees are removed. Certain dead or hollow trees, if judged to be of great wildlife value and not located



programs. This past year we have had several timber, firewood and locust pole sales, again generating funds for our Tree Trust. These funds are used for tree plantings in all our facilities. Since its inception in 1991 the Westchester County Parks Tree Trust has generated over \$150,000 in donations, grants and from forest product sales.

At Muscote Farm in Somers we have established a 2-acre Christmas tree plantation and at Mohansic Golf Course we have established a one-acre tree nursery. Both sites are intended for education and practical use.

The new environmental buzz word today, "biodiversity" has been a part of our system for many years. With much cooperation from our naturalist staff we have been conducting hundreds of wildlife programs for years. In each of the 5 nature centers habitat improvement programs combined with public education are the main focus of the Conservation Division. Examples of their work include the establishment of thousands of bluebird boxes throughout our parks, river improvements for trout, butterfly gardens, wild turkey improvements and maple sugaring. The

major focus of their work is incorporating their conservation efforts into school programs. Each day, during the school year, hundreds of elementary students are bussed into our facilities where they experience first hand the various biological and cultural programs offered.

In addition to this, the naturalist staff have initiated expensive biological surveys of our parkland in the hope of inventorying the biological diversity and using this information for future management options. Coyote, wild turkey and beaver are making a strong comeback to our parklands.

We are not without our problems. The white tailed deer population is so large and abundant that these animals are now spotted in New Rochelle and Yonkers, following the parkways south. The deer are responsible for numerous auto accidents, ornamental damage, spread of Lyme disease carrying ticks and extensive damage to natural forest reproduction. The northern part of Westchester is especially problematic. While there is much public debate as to what to do about this situation, it is clear that nonmanagement of the deer herd is

failing. Hunting is quite limited in Westchester and prohibited in County Parks. Presently, fencing and repellents are our only alternative. There are few native trees unpalatable to the deer menu.

Ash yellows and hemlock woolly adelgid are our two worst disease and insect problems. Eight out of every 10 trees we remove for safety reasons are of these two species. I fear that hemlock is especially threatened in Westchester. We do spray our ornamental hemlocks with horticultural oil or soap but our natural forested areas are inaccessible and costly to treat. Our hope lies with natural controls that are presently being studied by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

With only one County Forester, 5 curators and one Naturalist, I am especially proud of what we accomplish here in Westchester. The next time you are down here, look us up and come in for a visit. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

*Ted Kozlowski, after 4 years with NYS DEC as a service forester in Region 1, in 1984 became Westchester County's Forester. Ted also serves as the chair for Area 1 of NYS Tree Farm Committee.*

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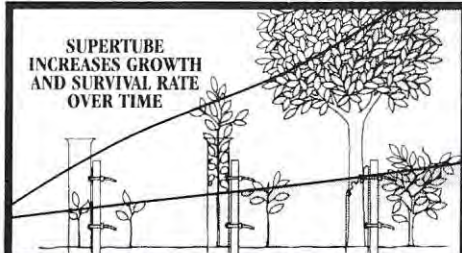
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# The Northern Forest Lands Council Proposed Actions That Would Benefit Private Forest Land Owners



"Winter View" - By Sabra Field

By Robert L. Bendick, Jr.,

## THE CHARGE & DESIGN

The Northern Forest Lands Council (NFLC) was created in 1990 by the Governors of New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine to identify ways to reinforce the traditional forested character of the north country of these states. The Council included a landowner, local government, environmental and state government representative from each state and was appointed in response to the fear that large tracts of land that had been held for generations for forest management might be subdivided and sold off for development thus changing the economy and the natural character of these forested areas. The Council conducted a unique public process involving thousands of participants to arrive at a consensus on how to sustain forest land uses and enhance the lives of the people living within the 26 million acres of forested land extending from eastern Maine to Lake Ontario.

Funding was provided by Congress through the State and Private branch of the United States Forest Service and by each of the four states. Using these funds, a small staff was hired to support the Council's work and to coordinate Council activities in each state and technical studies were commissioned to explore specific issues.

The Northern Forest Lands Council was a diverse group. The members from New York State included Bob Stegemann, Regional Public Affairs Manager for the International Paper Corporation, Neil Woodworth, Counsel to the Adirondack Mountain Club, Barbara Sweet, Town Board Member from the Town of Newcomb at the heart of the Adirondack Park and myself, then Deputy Commissioner for Natural Resources at the Department of Environmental Conservation. Members from other states included a minister who served several rural communities in Vermont, a small town newspaper publisher from New Hampshire, a representative of the Maine Forest Products Council, a consulting forester from Vermont and a wide range of people represent-

ing other local and state interests. In New York State the Northern Forest Lands area included the Adirondack Park and the Tug Hill Region.

## PROCEDURES

From the beginning the Council determined that it would only be successful in addressing the problems and the future of the Northern Forest if it involved the broadest possible range of citizens and interests in its discussions. Citizens Advisory Committees (CAC's) were appointed in each state to advise the Council members and the Council committed itself to an extensive program of public involvement in its discussions. The CAC in New York State included 30 members and represented every facet of opinion about forest issues from strong property rights advocates to environmental groups. In addition, the Council assembled several technical work groups to help explore technical issues and moved its meetings from place to place around the region in an effort to engage many people in its discussions.

The Council began its work by dividing itself into committees and then hiring experts to help us understand the pressures that were shaping the future of the north country. Among the studies and forums commissioned by the Council were: an analysis of the conversion of land in the study area to non-forestry uses, a forum on national and international influences on land ownership, a series of papers and discussions on protection of biological resources, an evaluation of alternative land conservation strategies, several papers and forums on the future of the forest based economy, papers on property taxes and state and federal taxes and a study of forest based recreation and tourism. All the study and forum findings were discussed with the Citizen Advisory Committees in each state and published in a large volume called the "Technical Appendix".

## REPORTS

Based on this research the Council produced a report for public discussion in the Fall of 1993 entitled "Findings and Op-

tions" which elicited more than 1,000 pages of written responses from people inside and outside the region. After analysis of these comments the NFLC then released a report of draft recommendations in March, 1994, and conducted a public discussion period that resulted in additional comments from more than 1,600 people. Finally, the NFLC engaged in a lengthy internal debate to produce final recommendations in September, 1994. This report was forwarded to the four state Governors, to the Congressional delegations of the four states and to the U.S. Forest Service for review and implementation.

## PROPOSALS

The final report of the Council, entitled *Finding Common Ground: Conserving the Northern Forest*, was released in September, 1994. In this report the NFLC concluded that while the northern forest is not facing an imminent crisis, unless careful measures are taken to conserve both the private and public values of forest land over time, these values will be damaged for those who live, own land and work within the region and for visitors and interested citizens from other places. Given this, the Council proposed 37 recommendations for action grouped into four categories:

- \*Fostering the Stewardship of Private Land

- \*Protecting Exceptional Resources

- \*Strengthening Economies of Rural Communities

- \*Promoting More Informed Decisions.

These recommendations place very strong emphasis on supporting the ability of private landowners to manage their land for forest purposes over the long run.

*In developing the internal consensus for these recommendations the council members believed strongly that they should not just apply to the north country, but should be relevant and helpful to forest land owners throughout the four states. I believe that this was achieved, and, thus, that it is important to highlight some of the recommendations for the New York Forest landowners Association.*

### \*Fostering Stewardship of Private Land

The NFLC made recommendations designed to make management of forest land profitable for landowners over the long run. Among the recommendations are:

\*Support for Federal and State easement programs to allow property owners to voluntarily sell development rights over forest land.

\*Support for the Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP) that provides financial help to landowners for the management of forest land.

\*Relief from rising property taxes through improved forest tax programs and eventual replacement of current approaches to property taxation.

\*Revisions to estate tax laws to provide tax relief to heirs who wish to maintain their land in forest use.

\*Revisions to capital gains and passive loss tax rules to treat forest landowners more fairly



Photo by Dave Gray, Senior Forester, NYS DEC Herkimer Office.

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\*Cooperative efforts to better define "sustainable forest management" and to provide assistance to landowners in achieving such management.

### \*Protecting Exceptional Resources

In this area the Council made recommendations for the careful identification of land suitable for public acquisition from voluntary sellers to protect land of exceptional recreational or natural value for public use. Recommendations were also made for funding such acquisition. The Council also emphasized the need to properly care for public lands. In addition, the NFLC outlined an approach to conserving the biological character of both public and private land through a cooperative program of public and private action.

### \*Strengthening Economies of Rural Communities

The Council felt strongly that it is important for rural communities to have the tools to strengthen their natural resource based economies. Among those tools the

Council recommended:

\*Continuation of State and Federal programs to provide Rural Community Assistance, marketing and other technical assistance for wood products firms, and loans for forest related businesses.

\*A range of measures to promote forest related recreation and tourism

\*Reform of worker's compensation insurance

\*Simplifying and stabilizing state regulatory programs

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### **\*Promoting More Informed Decisions**

Finally, the Council felt that measures were needed to better prepare governments, landowners and citizens to make better future decisions about the northern forest. Among these are encouraging the four State University Forestry programs in the region to cooperate on forestry research and provide more technical help to states and landowners, more effective tracking of land conversion and forest growth trends, and establishing programs of natural resource education as part of school curriculums.

The recommendations of the Northern Forest Lands Council are unusual in today's conflict filled world in that they reflect a true consensus among the varying interests that were represented on the Council. They have been generally well received by a cross section of interest groups and many people have expressed an interest in continuing the dialogue and consensus seeking on issues that threaten the future of forest resources. Many of the Council's recommendations clearly have a benefit for forest landowners; in particular they call for providing incentives and removing the obstacles which threaten the ability of landowners to carry out long term management

of their lands. The recommendations in Finding Common Ground will not, however, implement themselves. The council believed that the next step in addressing the issues facing the northern forest lands region is for each of the states to take action and for citizens, businesses, local communities and the institutions of the Northern Forest to join forces to implement the Council's recommendations.

Each state is currently developing its own strategy for carrying out the Council's recommendations. Those wishing to become involved in this ongoing effort in New York State can obtain a copy of the Council's final report or can find out more about the activities related to carrying out the Council's proposals by contacting New York's Northern Forest Land Coordinator, Karyn Richards, Division of Lands and Forests, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 50 Wolf Road, Room 404, Albany, New York, 12233-4250.

*Robert Bendick served as the chairperson of the Four State Northern Forest Lands Council and New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation Deputy Commissioner of Natural Resources.*

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## Last Chance Sign Up (MFO's)

New York's Master Forest Owner/COVERTS Program is now in its 5th year. Much has been accomplished, but much is still to be done! There are now 100 Master Forest Owner (MFO) volunteers (including 16 couples) from 38 counties. Simply stated, MFOs are responsible for providing private, non-industrial forest owners of NY State with the information and encouragement necessary to manage their forest holdings wisely. This is typically done via a 1/2-day visit to cooperating neighbors' woodlots. MFOs also become involved in time with a variety of other educational opportunities to promote wise forest stewardship such as working with their County Cooperative Extension Agents and NYS DEC Foresters.

This year's training for MFO candidates will be held Thurs. evening through Sun. noon, Sept. 14-17, at Cornell's Arnot Forest, just south of Ithaca. The training workshop is a combination classroom and outdoor field exercises on a wide variety of subjects including tree identification, finding boundaries, forest ecology, wildlife management, communication techniques, and even a visit to Coastal Lumber Co. sawmill. All workshop expenses (or most, depending on funding) are paid by the program.

NY's MFO/COVERTS program is jointly funded by the NY Forest Stewardship Program and the Ruffed Grouse Society with cooperation from Cornell Cooperative Extension, NYS DEC Division of Lands and Forests, and the NY Forest Owners Association.

Individuals or couples interested in applying to become MFO volunteers must contact the Program Director, Gary Goff, by June 1st. An application form will then be mailed to candidates. Notification of selection to the program will be made by July 1st. To apply or for more information, please write to MFO/COVERTS Program, Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853 or call 607/255-2824.

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Two videotape programs are now available that encourage farmers and rural landowners in the NE to manage wetlands as valuable resources. In addition to management practices that protect wetlands, the availability of public and private assistance programs that provide cost-sharing, information, and on-site technical services are highlighted.. The videotapes were funded by Cornell Cooperative Extension, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Renewable Resources Extension Program. Informational flyers are free, and a 26-min. feature and a 10-min. promotional piece are included on one tape available for \$25 payable to "Cornell University" from: Wetlands Video, 108 Fernow Hall, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY 14853.

### A Great Videotape


CAREFUL TIMBER HARVEST - A 20-min videotape and a 29-page Guide to Logging Aesthetics, prepared by The Society for The Protection of New Hampshire Forests, contains practical tips for loggers, foresters, and landowners. \$5.00 will cover shipping and handling both ways; phone NYFOA's 1-800-836-3566.

### Announcement

Saturday, May 20, 1995, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM EST Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service will present a National Video conference on "Managing Forest Ecosystems" for satellite coordinates or local down link sites contact your Cornell Cooperative Extension office or NYFOA's 1-800-8335-3566.

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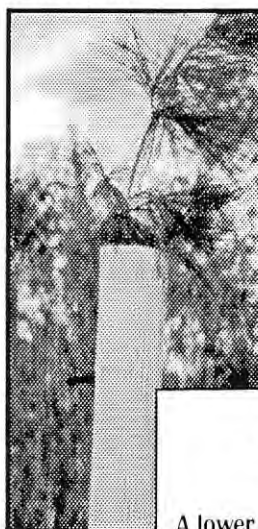
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# The NY Forest Inventory Preliminary Report

By Henry S. Kernan

By this coming summer those interested in our state's forest resources will have available the results of their fourth inventory, "Forest Statistics for New York - 1980 and 1993". The results will appear as a Northeastern Forest Experiment Station Bulletin. The preliminary manuscript is now under review and revision. The following comments refer to the preliminary report, not the final document.

The Bulletin will be a stupendous achievement, more comprehensive and more precise than publications of previous inventories. Better procedures have been used for gathering and presenting forest resource data.

The project leader is John Peters; the authors of the text are Carol Alerich and David Drake; and there was a data collection staff of 56. Organized into eight categories of information, the data are spread over 155 statistical tables. They deal separately with eight geographical units, 55 county units, eight forest types, 86 tree species, and 44 shrub species. One can find such totals as the forested area of the state (18.6 million acres) and the unreserved volume of growing stock (21.9 billion cubic feet). Such further details appear as the number of silky dogwood in stands of the sapling and seedling stand size class (211 million) and the volume of growing stock hickory in the 11"-12.9" diameter class in the Southwest Highlands geographical unit (6.0 million cubic feet).

Of special interest are the trends brought out by comparisons between the 1980 and 1993 data.

The rapid and informative approach to this massive and mind-boggling pile of tables and figures is by way of the ten-page summary of seven highlights. They are all favorable, at least superficially and at first glance. We are pleased to learn that our growing-stock trees have increased in volume, size, quality, and numbers. Each year the growing-stock volume has increased by 415 million cubic feet. Annual removal is about one-third of annual growth. The leading species in volume are sugar maple, red maple, and hemlock, in that order. By far the most extensive forest type is that of the northern hardwoods (birch, beech, and maple), followed by the oak-hickory type and then the pines, white and red.

Those going beyond the highlights will

find surprises, contradictions, and even a few absurdities! For example, the chestnut blight is often thought to have eliminated the American Chestnut from our woodlands. The assertion is correct when one regards the chestnut as a timber tree; but not correct when one counts American Chestnut sprouts and seedlings. The inventory determined their numbers to be 61 million!

A surprise is beech. For years an imported disease has been devastating our one species of beech, Summer woodlands, yellow with the foliage of dying beech, are part of our landscape. Now beech stems of the one inch diameter class and over number 868 million. The volume of beech has increased since 1980 by 166 million cubic feet. The increase has occurred despite an annual loss of 24.5 million cubic feet to mortality and commercial use. New York has at least five varieties of beech, some with more resistance than others. The more resistant varieties are asserting themselves. The news is great for squirrels and turkeys, sawmillers may think it less so.

Another surprise is a report of a negligible increase in forest area! But between the second and third inventories, the forest area of New York increased by one million acres. Moreover, the 1981 publication of the third inventory, "The Forest Resources of New York", gave the area as 18,172,000 acres, 60 per cent of the state's land area. The present inventory gives 18,641,300 forest acres, 62 per cent of the state. The difference is not negligible.

Among the eight forest types appears one designated as Loblolly-shortleaf and defined as a forest in which those pines make up a plurality of the stocking. The area of the type is stated to be 154,200 acres. Neither of those pines appears in the list of tree species in New York. Loblolly does not exist at all as a forest tree in our state. In the National Heritage Program, shortleaf pine in this state has an SH designation of "no extant sites in New York".

We NIPFs (non-industrial private forest owners) own 85% of the state's non-reserved timber lands. On the whole we have been good stewards; we can do better, of course, and perhaps we will. We have not overcut nor devastated our woodlots. We have improved them or allowed them to improve themselves.

Study of the inventory's results raises

further questions of classification and use. With 9.8 per cent of NY forest land reserved from exploitation, we are clearly ahead of the country on that score. Urban forests cover only 100,000 acres, a tiny fraction of the suburban forests adjacent to where most New Yorkers live; we have almost as much land under Christmas tree management.

The Lukian parable tells of a moral imperative to make use of our talents and resources. How does that square with a growth to removal ratio of three to one? With an annual tree mortality of 110 million cubic feet? With an average of 16 dead trees on each acre of forest land? Are we satisfied to see metal and plastic mobile homes adjacent to forests stocked with dead and over-matured trees?

Forests and wood products are prominent among the resources that give beauty, dignity, and amenity to our lives. The fourth USDA New York Inventory will help us judge the use we are making of a magnificent endowment.

*Henry Kernan is a consulting forester in World Forestry, a Master Forest Owner, and a frequent contributor to the NY FOREST OWNER.*

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# CHAPTER/AFFILIATES

## THRIFT

THRIFT is excited about a project that we have initiated in conjunction with Cornell Cooperative Extension, Oswego County. The "Marquise Nature Education Area" is a 261 acre parcel of forest land located in the town of Williamstown. The land was donated to Cooperative Extension for use in various forestry related demonstration and educational projects. THRIFT members will be volunteering their time and expertise to educating the public about forest management. In return THRIFT members will benefit by obtaining the help of Oswego Cooperative Extension services in the management of their own forest land.

## SE Adirondack

1995 Woodswalks are scheduled for **July 15** and **October 7**. Next steering committee meeting on **Saturday, June 24**, 1:00 p.m. at Fullerton's Tree Farm. Bring a covered dish/grill going.... Open to interested members! Call John at 798-0248 for info. 1995 chapter officers are: Ernie Spencer, chair; Gregg Mackey, vice-chair; Polly Fullerton, Treasurer; Jean Beard, secretary; John Hastings, newsletter editor.

Plans for **July 15** include Dave and Jane Jenks in northern Warren County as hosts. Topic: "Logging Aesthetics." **October 7** Woodswalk will be at Jack Leadley's property near Speculator and will include seeing his "industry" of Adirondack furniture and pack baskets; also maple production.

## Catskill Forest Association

Two Catskill Forestry Forums were held recently. Funded by a New York State Stewardship Grant, these forums brought together the major stakeholders in the Catskill Forest: landowners, foresters, and timber harvesters. Panels consisting of representatives of these parties answered questions about forestry issues in the Catskills. Purposes of the forums were to encourage and stimulate dialogue and promote cooperation.

The Northern Catskill Forum was held on March 25 on the campus of SUNY Cobleskill. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Sullivan County in Liberty co-hosted the Southern Catskill Forum on April 1. The

## Northeastern Area Tree Farm Awardees



*Ron Cadieux (r) NYS Tree Farm Area #6 Chairperson, presents awards for the Northeastern U.S. Tree Farm Outstanding Tree Farmer Competition to Polly and Erwin Fullerton, members of NYFOA's Southeastern Adirondack Chapter.*

audience had the opportunity to participate and several good discussions occurred.

Lewis Decker of the NY Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation travelled to Arkville, March 28 to give a presentation to an enthusiastic group of hopeful chestnut growers. He presented a wonderful slide show and spoke about the efforts to revive the American Chestnut in New York.

## 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,

## Cayuga

April 21-28, 1995, 25th Anniversary celebration of Earth Day, April 22, 1970, the Cayuga Chapter will man a display at the Cayuga County Community College. In addition, throughout the week the chapter in cooperation with the Cayuga county Federation of Conservation Clubs will begin an experimental program (The Lou Noga Project) directed at the restoration of the American Chestnut to the county, The Falcon Sportsman Club and the Cayuga County Sportsman's Clubs are providing sites and funds; the Cayuga Chapter NYFOA, funds; and the Cayuga County Community College, sites to establish permanent root stocks from seedlings of two genetic sources. The chapter will maintain records; the community college will assist in monitoring; and the plantings will be accomplished by boy scout troops. Other institutional sites will be involved next year.

# Catskill Region Nominated for Biosphere Reserve

By Donna Rogler

In an effort spearheaded by The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, an application has been submitted to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural (UNESCO) Man and the Biosphere Program for designation of the Catskill Region as a Biosphere Reserve. A committee of non-profit organizations (including CFA), government agencies, local citizens, and educators collaborated on the preparation of the application.

Biosphere reserves are areas of representative terrestrial and coastal environments which have been recognized for their ecological and cultural significance. Designation is a recognition that is completely non-regulatory. Activities within the program are a cooperative effort between agencies, communities, educational institutions, and non-government organizations.

The proposed Catskill Region Biosphere

Reserve includes all of Delaware, Greene, Otsego, Schoharie, Sullivan, and Ulster Counties and the southwestern portion of Albany County.

Coordination and development of research and education programs in biology, ecology, land use planning, sustainable economic development, culture, and history are the major goals of the Reserve. Designation could bring many benefits to the region, including money and attention for projects in these areas. The region's three primary industries tourism, agriculture, and forestry - will be aided by coordinated planning and management efforts that will focus on traditional land and resource uses, sustainable land management practices, and encouragement of traditional arts. The proposed Biosphere Reserve will help to preserve and develop a sense of place and cultural heritage, and, ideally, a sense of regional identity based upon the unique natural treasures and rich cultural history

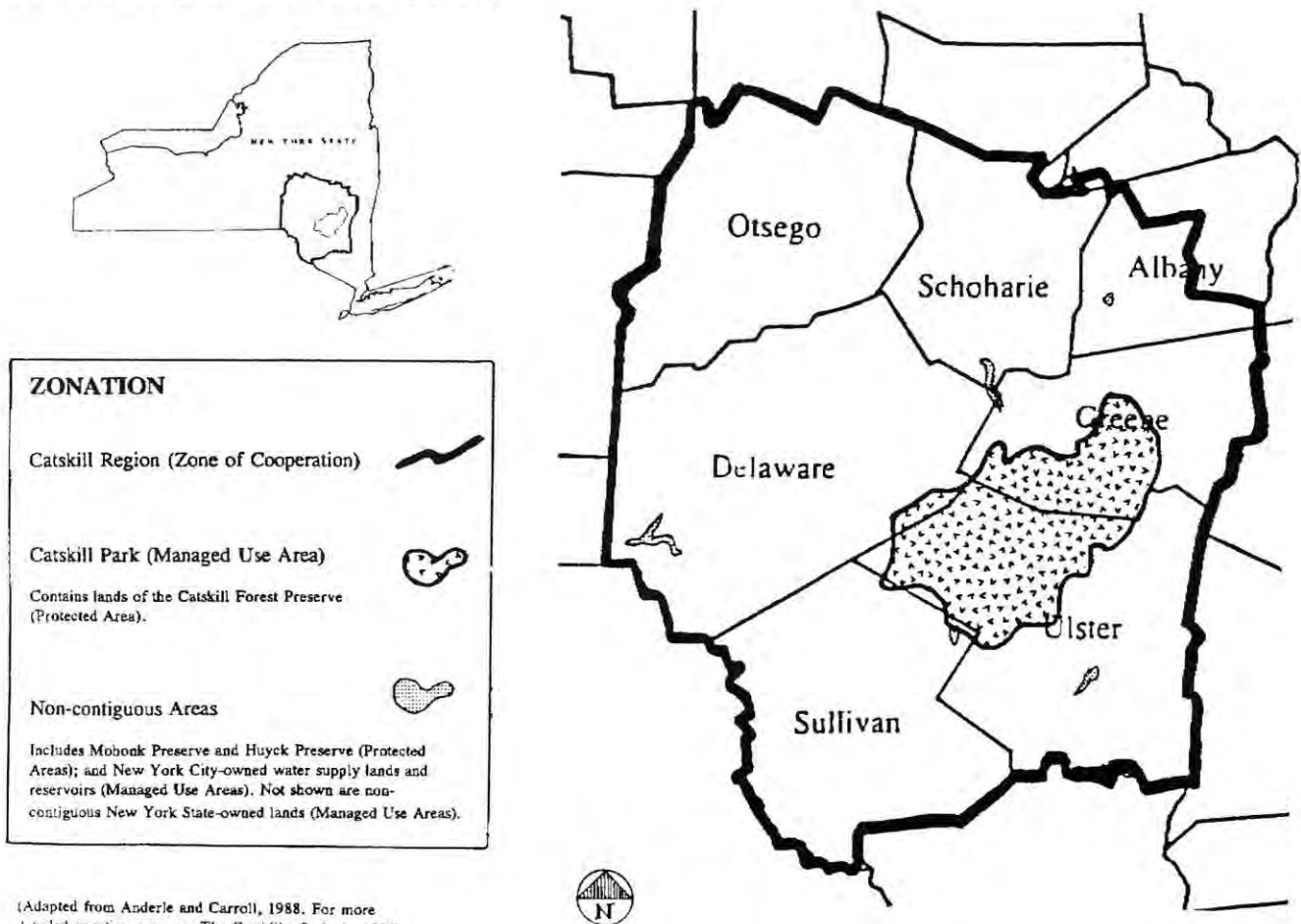
of the region, and the need to conserve these resources.

Initially, The Catskill Center will coordinate activities within the proposed Catskill Region Biosphere Reserve. A long-term goal is to establish a laboratory and educational facility to provide a base of operations to coordinate and conduct programs and research. The region's interested residents will be involved in cooperative efforts to pursue research in ecology, planning, development, and folklore and develop educational activities to increase environmental awareness and stewardship.

Official designation could come as early as July when the International Committee of the Man and the Biosphere Program meets in Paris.

*Donna is the Director of Education for the Catskill Forest Association and represents the affiliate on NYFOA's Board of Directors.*

## CATSKILL REGION BIOSPHERE RESERVE



# Ask A Forester: Why The Commission?

By Robert W. Howard

Dinnie Sloman, in the "Ask A Forester" column (NYFO Jan/Feb), stated that selling timber on a commission basis can create a conflict of interest. As one of those consultants who charge by commission, I take offense at this statement and the entire paragraph this statement was in.

Why do consultants charge on a commission basis over a hourly and/or per acre rates? The same reason why real estate agents, insurance agents, car salesman, auctioneers, and other people who are involved in sales are paid on commission. It gives them the incentive to sell the product.

In the real world not all people manage their timberland the way we in NYFOA do. With most of our clientele, the reason they sell timber is because they need the money for one reason or another, not because it is a heavily stocked stand which needs to be thinned, or because it is mature and needs a regeneration cutting. Here are three recent examples: the first was a farmer who needed a new tractor, the second was a landowner who needed to pay off his mortgage and the last was an estate trying to liquidate their assets to settle with the heirs and the tax man. In each instance, the first concern was how many dollars could the timber produce, in all three cases management of the resource took a back seat.

Not all was lost however; because we work on a commission basis we were able to work in some management on two out of the three clients mentioned above. The farmer who needed to pay for a new tractor had an excellent 20 acre sugar maple stand in the small sawtimber size class. He had done some non-commercial thinning in the past and the stand was at a good density for tree growth. We could have sold the timber off this lot; but after consulting with the owner that it was not in his best interest to cut timber this small, he agreed to postpone the harvest until the stocking got to a point where thinning was appropriate. We have the confidence that when the owner decides to sell, he will call us to handle the sale. Through selling on a commission basis we feel we have a vested interest in that timber and by cutting the timber later, we too will make more money in the long run.

The landowner who wanted to pay off his mortgage had several offers on the tim-

ber already. His lot was primarily a mix of hemlock, white pine, and hardwood. After looking over the lot and consulting with the landowner, we recommended that the low valued hemlock and poor quality white pine be harvested and that should get him the cash he requires. We also recommended that he postpone the sale until late summer or fall for the wet ground conditions limited the sale to a winter harvest; and there was recently a sudden drop in that market. We could've sold this timber directly, but by selling on a commission basis, it will be to both the owner's and our advantage to sell the timber when we feel we can get the most.

As for the estate, they have decided to liquidate their timber asset as it is the most liquid asset they have and they need the cash fast. In this case, our main job is to get the most value we can from the sale. When a forester sells on a commission basis, he has an interest to make more money for you, the landowner. We scale the timber in favor of the owner, not the timber buyer, and we let the "world" know about the sale. We generally mail sale prospectives to over 100 buyers and more on exceptionally large sales where we send them throughout New York, Vermont and into Canada. What we are trying to do is match the timber to the buyer who has the best market for the type of product offered for sale, whether it's veneer, sawlogs or pulpwood. If we were to sell this timber on a per acre basis, we would obtain a fair market value for the timber; but we would probably not be sending sale announcements to bidders who are over 250 miles away.

Conflict of interest can arise in any type of fee arrangement. Dinnie pointed out that on a commission basis, the forester may mark some high quality trees prematurely. True, but I have heard of less than honest foresters charging up more time than actually worked when paid on an hourly basis. On a per acre basis, the sale area could comprise more acres than actually marked and/or needed to be. Also fewer trees per acre could be marked so that the forester could cover more acres in a day, but the dollar value was high since he only took the best 5 or 6 trees per acre. None of these things should happen with an honest forester, however if they should happen, at least you

would be compensated for the dishonesty on a commission basis.

Dinnie's article was about knowing your forester. Chances are you will contact someone you either know yourself, or was referred to you by a friend or business associate. If you trust in the person you selected, the type of fee that forester charges will matter little to you. If you are sold on one type of fee vs. another I am sure the forester you have selected will work in the manner that will best suit your needs.

*Robert Howard is the chairman of the Northern Adirondack Chapter West. He and his wife Dawn are land and forestry consultants from Canton.*

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# "AN EPIDEMIC OF HIGHGRADING"

By Stephen B. Jones

"...Are we foresters talking Ecosystem Management even as we wear red suspenders and checkered shirts? For at least my entire forestry career, which is now in its third decade, we've been preaching about the absolute necessity for doing a better job of managing one extremely important class of forest Non-Industrial Private Forestowners. This ownership accounts for 58 percent of the nation's commercial forests. But what do we have to show for these decades of effort? An epidemic of highgrading! We can't even get landowners to practice basic forestry, much less Ecosystem Management. Whose fault is it?"

"I'm on the Board of Governors of Pennsylvania's Timber Harvesting Council. We met last week. Among other things we discussed the prevalence of "Deceptive Thinning" (the term has a nice ring, doesn't it?). The group recognized that not all of this highgrading is supervised by blood-thirsty pinhookers who know nothing about forestry. Some foresters (Yes, both industry and consulting.), "manage" with a paint gun and diameter tape. That's not management — it's timber mining. Shoot, you can train a chimpanzee to "manage" forests with a paint gun and D-tape. Do you know how the people around the table rationalized this abdication of our responsibility to follow the SAF's first Canon? That land

ethic Canon reads that foresters will "advocate and practice land management consistent with ecologically sound principles." They said, "The landowner made them do it — they're just doing what the landowner wanted them to do." How convenient. The landowner made me do it! How long can we foresters hide behind this all too familiar excuse? We have another Canon that says, "A member who is asked to participate in forestry operations which deviate from accepted professional standards must advise the employer in advance of the consequences of such deviation." Does simply advising the landowner that a responsible forestry treatment will yield less immediate income meet the intent of the Canon?"

"Of course not! Our obligations to inform and educate are much more involved, and should be far more persistent. Yes, I do know consulting foresters who will "JUST SAY NO." I know what you're thinking — It's easy for me, a university professor who has a guaranteed paycheck, to tell a practicing forester, whose livelihood depends on handling that sale, to JUST SAY NO. But at some point we will have to begin acting in a manner that merits a renewal of public trust. The public has no reason to trust us if our principal function is to serve as merchants of Deceptive

Thinning. How can we claim broad license to manage our nation's forests when too many of us either practice or condone this insidious mining of what may be the world's richest, temperate hardwood forest? Like it or not, as professional foresters, we bear broad responsibility for whatever is happening to our forests...."

*These remarks are excerpted from an address: "Implementing Ecosystem management: Some Thoughts From Pennsylvania", By Stephen B. Jones as given to the Society of American Foresters, New York Chapter at their Cortland Meeting of March 7-9, 1995. Dr. Jones is an Associate Professor of Forest Resources at Pennsylvania State University. He, also, serves as the Northeastern Regional Editor for NATIONAL WOODLANDS magazine. In a subsequent communication Dr. Jones cautioned that his remarks were not intended to malign any particular segment of the forestry profession.*

*As reported in the NY FOREST OWNER (Jul/Aug 94), an eleven member committee of NY foresters was formed to survey 100 randomly selected sites which had been harvested in the past 2-3 years. This survey is about one third completed in the field. The data obtained will be evaluated for silviculture practices.*

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# GALL MAKING INSECTS

## unsightly, yet ingenious

By Douglas Allen

Every kind of tree and many other types of vegetation are host to insects or mites that cause abnormal, often bizarre looking, growths called galls. All plant parts are susceptible, but generally each gall maker restricts its activity to one type of substrate: a leaf, twig, bud, root, or stem. Not only is the location of a gall consistent for a given species of gall maker, but the size, shape and color of the gall also are remarkably similar from one generation to the next.

### WHAT IS A GALL?

Insects and mites have the ability to initiate gall formation as a consequence of their feeding or egg laying activities. The mechanisms responsible for this abnormal growth are not completely understood, but evidence indicates that both the parasite and the host plant probably play a role. Gall formers, for example, inject chemical substances into the host during the process of egg laying, or via their saliva when feeding. These chemicals stimulate the plant to produce unusually large cells and (or) an unusual number of cells. Simultaneously, the plant may transport chemicals of its own to the feeding site in an attempt to wall off the injured area or to neutralize the introduced toxicants. The abnormal growth of plant tissue that results (i.e., the gall) provides a relatively stable habitat for the parasite. It produces a reliable source of food, affords protection from many natural enemies and acts as a buffer against adverse weather. In short, this parasitic relationship between insect (or mite) and plant is another example of ingenious adaptations found in the world of insects!

### ORGANISMS RESPONSIBLE

Most of the known gall makers belong to a small group of mites and six groups of insects: moths, beetles, wasps, flies, aphids, and adelgids (*ah-dell-gids* are related to aphids).

Additionally, some species of nematodes, bacteria, fungi, viruses, and a few parasitic plants (mistletoes) are able to stimulate gall formation.

### HOW INJURIOUS ARE GALLS?

As with any insect, whether or not a gall maker attains pest status is determined largely by landowner objectives. Certainly under forest conditions, most galls amount to little more than curiosities. On ornamental plants, shade trees and situations where trees are intensively managed, such as in nurseries or Christmas tree plantations, however, infestations may be severe enough to change the desired appearance of a tree (color, form) or to reduce growth (height, diameter). Host mortality is rare.

### CONTROL

Synthetic organic chemicals are available where large-scale control is desired. Timing the application of a contact insecticide is important, because generally there is only a narrow window of opportunity when an accessible life stage is present. For example, adults of the balsam gall midge are susceptible to treatment (i.e., exposed, not yet within the gall) only in late May or early June. A contact material can be applied effectively against a stage of the Cooley spruce gall adelgid only in late April to early May.

Whenever dormant oils are approved for use, the window of opportunity widens. These high grade oils are applied when the host plant is dormant to avoid phytotoxic effects. They are physical poisons that encase each insect in a fine film of oil and impair their respiratory apparatus. The result is suffocation.

Systemic insecticides are available for certain gall makers, such as the balsam gall midge. Systemics are synthetic organic chemicals that do not kill on contact but are absorbed by plant foliage and (or) roots and act as stomach poisons when ingested by the gall maker feeding on host sap or tissues.

Certain types of gall damage can be managed by conscientious mechanical control. Removing and destruction of galls made by Cooley and eastern spruce gall adelgids at the right time of year (when galls are greenish and still contain the pest), for example, is an effective way to minimize damage to small ornamentals. After the galls turn brown, their removal may improve tree appearance, but because the

insects have vacated the gall this treatment has little effect on the infestation *per se*.

### SOME EXAMPLES

Two species familiar to most people are the Cooley spruce gall and eastern spruce gall adelgids. The former creates a banana-shaped structure that encompasses the entire current year's shoot (Fig. 1), a gall of the latter looks more like a pineapple and is restricted to the base of the current twig (Fig. 2). Cooley spruce gall adelgids are found only on blue spruce. The eastern spruce adelgid prefers Norway spruce, but will infest red, white and blue spruces as well.

The gouty vein midge (a small fly) causes pouch-like swellings along a major vein on the underside of a sugar maple leaf (Fig. 3).

The spindle-like structures that commonly appear on the upper surface of maple and cherry leaves (Fig. 4) are created by mites that enter from the underside of the leaf.

Gall wasps are responsible for an amazing variety of abnormalities, most especially on oaks (Fig. 5). Recently, a gall wasp that infests the branches of black oak has been associated with extensive, unsightly damage to trees on Long Island (Fig. 6).

The author thanks Carolyn Pike for the photograph in Figure 6.

*This is the 20th in the series of articles contributed by Dr. Allen, Professor of Forest Entomology at SUNY/ESF.*

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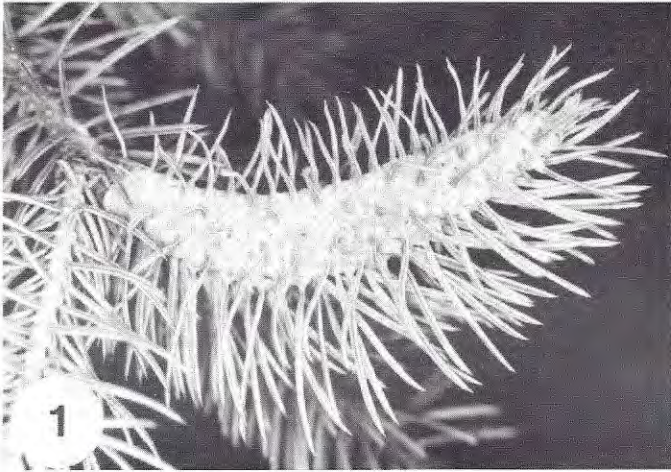
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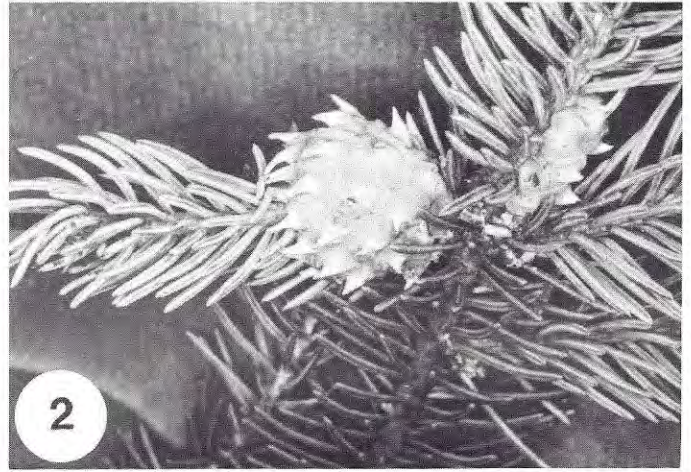
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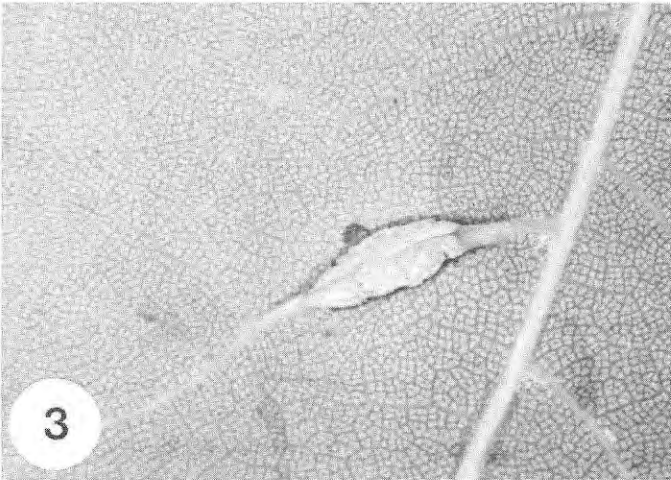




*Cooley spruce gall adelgid.*



*Eastern spruce gall adelgid.*



*Gouty vein gall midge on the underside of a maple leaf.*



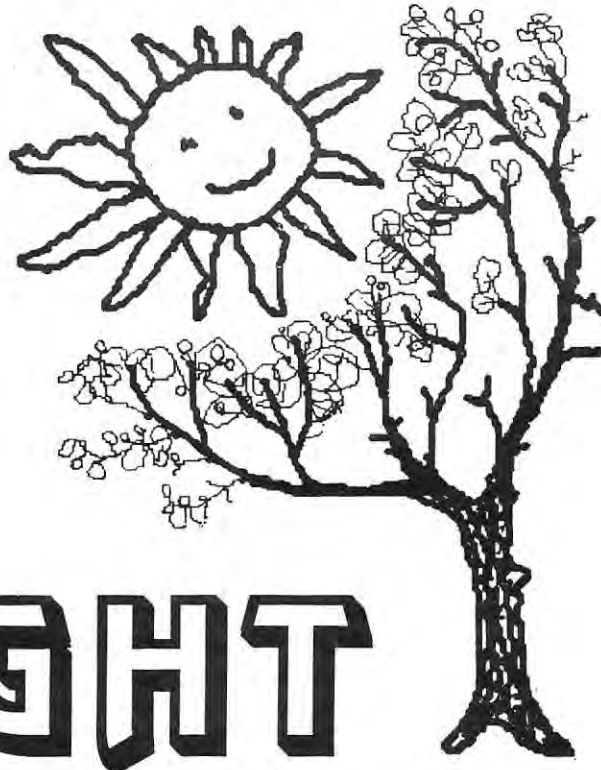
*Bladder mite on top of a maple leaf.*



*An oak twig gall.*



*Gall damage to black oak twig.*



# LIGHT

By Peter S. Levatic®

Not Pepsi Light. I am writing about the LIGHT that comes from above: the stuff that is the forest owner's most important treasure. Have you ever wondered what makes your trees grow? I mean really! They just don't stand there and develop automatically, you know. Some do better than others, some give up and die, some grow well now but slow down later, perhaps speed up again, some just don't change at all for decades. Why? If you grasp what goes on, you can make a great deal of difference in your forest. All other facts will be useful. But understanding LIGHT will help you manage your forest most effectively, indeed.

In the beginning of my forest ownership I was aware that CLIMATE made a difference in how trees grew. But I could not influence that, of course. I concentrated on the SOIL next. Being deep in mud season just then with a very bad skid trail I inherited, I had a suspicion that this kind of quagmire was bad news for tree growth. Not erosion, but churned up mud. I drained it and ditched it eventually and felt pretty good about it until a beautiful ash crop tree died about 35 feet away a year later. I was shocked! Well, growth of a tree, as it turns out, is determined in many ways by what happens to the soil in which the tree is anchored. I found out that nutrients, compaction, aeration, permeability all mattered.

Roots go a lot farther than most of us think.<sup>1</sup> Forest soil is very complex and out of view. But what really hit me was that a normal mortal forest owner can do very little about the forest soil except to leave it as undisturbed as possible. Just tread lightly wearing large shoes!

So, working with the soil to improve tree growths is sort of a passive affair. I have to confess that my temperament wants something to do instead of staying out of the action. I kept searching. I knew that thinning helped: tree growth accelerates. You reduce tree density and the rest grows more rapidly. Everybody knows that. And I am ashamed to say that not until last year did it really dawn on me that it is sunlight which makes all the difference. LIGHT is the key to better forest growth, the foremost tool for the active forest owner. You cannot buy it, or make it, but you sure can use it to your advantage. It is yours free even when the sun is behind the clouds; as long as it is above the horizon it works. It works like this.

>Trees are light sensitive. They detect the lengthening of daylight in the winter months and eventually start their growing season based principally on that input. Trees detect the shortening of daylight hours in late summer and start the shutting down process which leads to leaf fall.

>Individual trees literally shape them-

selves in response to the kind of light that reaches them. You have seen majestic trees standing in the middle of a clearing or a field. What shape do they all have? A relatively short, fat trunk and a tall broad top with innumerable leaves on all sides. Find a similar tree in a dense forest and what does it look like? Thin and stretched way up into the canopy with a small crown reaching straight up to the sky. The availability of light made the difference between the two: same age, same species, same soil.

>From the day they poke through the leaf litter as tiny seedlings, trees are in intense competition for light. They want as much as they can get and kill for it. The best growers will soon over top the slow ones which struggle for a while trying to get light to survive, then die. Thousands of seedlings will start out of a clear cut 4 to 8 inches apart in our woods and how many make it to maturity in the 100 years it takes? It is the survival of the fittest, indeed.

>Leaves exposed to light make sugar and other carbohydrates which are the food for tree growth. More leaves result in more growth. If a tree is shaded sufficiently it gradually declines in leaf area and dies. Growth is governed by other factors too, of course, like genetics and the quality of the site. For example branching qualities are genetically influenced and a better site will result in taller trees. But tree diameter is a function of crown area: the more leaves, the more food, the fatter the trunk.

>Forest trees respond in drastic ways to directional light. Edge trees lean out towards the open side and have profuse side branches. Trees bend and twist over the years to obtain more light as conditions change around them. Branch mortality proceeds at lower levels as the tree grows taller with the rising canopy of a maturing forest around it. Trees left behind in this struggle become "suppressed", idling in the hope that a neighbor will die first so that they can get more light. Such suppressed or intermediate trees will seldom recover, they will "bush" out if light reaches them instead of continuing upward growth with vigor.

And what are you doing with this knowledge, dear fellow forest owner? Well, you can do almost everything depending on your management objectives. Whether you manage for wildlife, maple products, timber, aesthetics, or recreation, your trees will respond to the light conditions you create for them. Let's look at some examples.

>Wildlife benefits from seed producing

trees and from a habitat composed of patches of seedlings and saplings. A tree has to have a large crown to produce seeds. This requires it to be "liberated" of its neighbors. On the other hand, light needs to be brought to ground level to provoke seedlings to develop. You can help by favoring edges, by making trails and roads wide and by cutting small clearings at five to ten year intervals. <sup>2</sup>Remember that different animals need different habitats. A variety of conditions can be developed utilizing the growing power of light to suit the wildlife you wish to support.

>Maple products, as you know, depend on sweet sap. Somehow you have to develop sugar maples with the largest leaf area possible. This means spacing them far apart so that they receive lots of side light in the crown area. Cut other trees between such sugar maple crop trees heavily: they will close the gaps you create in the forest canopy in no time.

>Timber trees, on the other hand, require a judicious amount of thinning. Vigorous crown growth is triggered by the increased amount of light reaching the crop tree crowns after thinning the forest. Sooner than you would think, crowns expand and close the openings. When to thin again? If you delay, growth declines, but if you thin again too soon, your crop trees have no desire to drop lower branches because these are still useful in absorbing the light you are letting in. You have to pay attention to lower branch mortality. Only early mortality will result in clear stems and the money is in clear stems. By the time your future timber tree is 8 inches (dbh) thick it should already have a clean stem. This is achieved by keeping these pole size trees closely spaced to shade out the lower branches. Thereafter the crowns need to be opened gradually and repeatedly. I have been marking my forest for cuttings for a long time but I mark better today than I have only

five years ago. It is a science but also an art based on experience, and no two foresters mark alike. But you can learn it too. It starts with the selection process keeping the positive in mind: Which trees shall be retained? Make your selection (your crop trees), mark them with flagging tied around the tree and invite a professional to see it. Ask his opinion of your selection. Then ask him to mark what needs to be cut. Follow on his heels around the woods asking why is he marking what he is marking. He may never come back, but you are on your way to becoming a good marker.

>Aesthetics...ah! A very subjective affair, but an important one: Do you like the looks of your woods? Could your forest look more beautiful? How can light make a difference as it filters through the trees, as it encourages better growth? My life and professional work is permeated by aesthetic concerns. Sometimes this leads to conflicts and my timber management objectives suffer because I save trees that look good even though they should come out. But even forest management has its dark side! You will not go wrong, however, focusing on light and growth and on what pleases your senses.

>Recreation is where the batteries get recharged. And you should have fun, of course! In the forest this takes place mostly along roads and trails. Here, growth triggered by light reaching the forest floor is often a hindrance. Short of paving your trails you have to mow and maintain them. I have many foot trails, only about 30 inches wide. I trim the sides once a year and spray the ground with a 2% Roundup solution. After a few years these paths become like carpeted corridors right through the untouched wilderness, for approach and observation of all that goes on

>Do you have a combination of objectives? That is fine. In any event obtain a

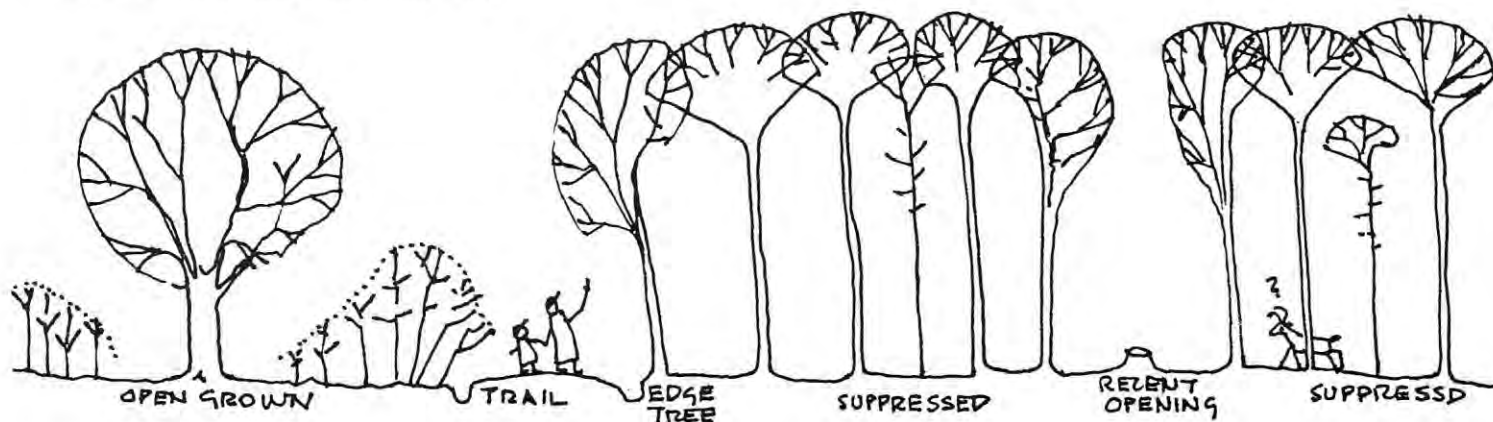
copy of Crop Tree Management In Eastern Hardwoods. <sup>3</sup>Read it over and over, then put it under your pillow; you might transfer in your sleep too. Even if you have a hardwood forest that has been neglected or mistreated and you feel there is nothing in there worth managing, do not despair! Light will rescue your forest. Divide it into 2-3 acre sections and systematically clear cut every other section like a checker board. It is called starting over. In our area of the world hardwood forests renew themselves. Ten years later cut the remaining sections. Meanwhile you will become host to new wildlife and soon you can deal with thousands of new trees which will be delightfully vigorous, well formed and cooperative.

LIGHT is essential to us humans too, but it is more directly critical to the forest. Keep looking up into the crowns all the time. You will learn how to stumble along without falling; it is worth it! By seeing the effect light has on crown growth you can influence the latter. You can rotate your forest crop in 80 years instead of a 120. You will have the great satisfaction of having made a long term mark, benefits for your successors and for society. It is fantastic!!! How can you bear sitting here and reading this instead of being out there doing it? Really!

<sup>1</sup> On the maximum extent of tree roots. E.L.Stone and P.J.Kalis. 1991

<sup>2</sup> Managing Northern Forests for Wildlife. G. W Gullion, 1984. The Ruffed Grouse Society.

<sup>3</sup> Crop Tree Management In Eastern Hardwoods. A.W.Perkey, B.L.Wilkins and H.C.Smith. USDA Forest Service Morgantown, WV: NA-TP-19-93. To obtain call: 304/285-1536.



# What size your saw logs?

By Peter S. Levatic®

Whenever I drive by a saw mill, I slow down to see the logs. What species, what quality and what size? I am glad when I see good saw logs being utilized. It is as it should be. Increasingly, though, the logs at the mills appear to be smaller. I happened to mention this to my neighbor the other day and he emphatically agreed. He too has been wondering about the size of saw logs being harvested. The market is very good now, but is it advisable to harvest such small saw timber trees?

Logs are priced on the basis of volume and grade. Volume measures the quantity of wood in a log, while grade is a determination of quality of the wood in the same log. Volume measurements are stated in board foot units of usable wood as defined by certain formulae called the scale (as in Doyle scale, 1/4 inch International scale, etc.). Usable volume in a log is less than the geometric volume because of losses to sawdust, the log center, and edges. Nevertheless, the more volume, the more value. Grade is based on the lack of defined defects and also on log diameter. The larger the log diameter and the fewer the defects,

the higher the grade. Veneer Grade is the highest, No-3 Grade is the lowest grade category.

Let us look at an example. Two logs, equally perfect and equally long but differing in diameter (See illustration).

The geometric volume of the 16" log is about twice that of the 12" log. The usable volumes are in similar ratios. Because grade evaluation rules state that a log has to be a minimum of 16" diameter to be classified a No 1 log, the smaller one in our example is a "number 2". (Note: mill specifications may vary somewhat, always inquire before cutting your tree.)

What does all this mean to the forest owner? It adds up to huge difference! Since Grade-1 is about twice as valuable as a Grade -2, it means that the above 16" log is worth at least four times more than the 12" log. (Twice the volume and twice the quality)..Calculations show that a 24" log of the same length is worth about 9.2 times more than a 12" log. If you have any 36" diameter logs, I will be happy to calculate how wealthy you are. It is phenomenal!

How long does it take to grow a tree from 12" to 16"? Under ideal conditions it

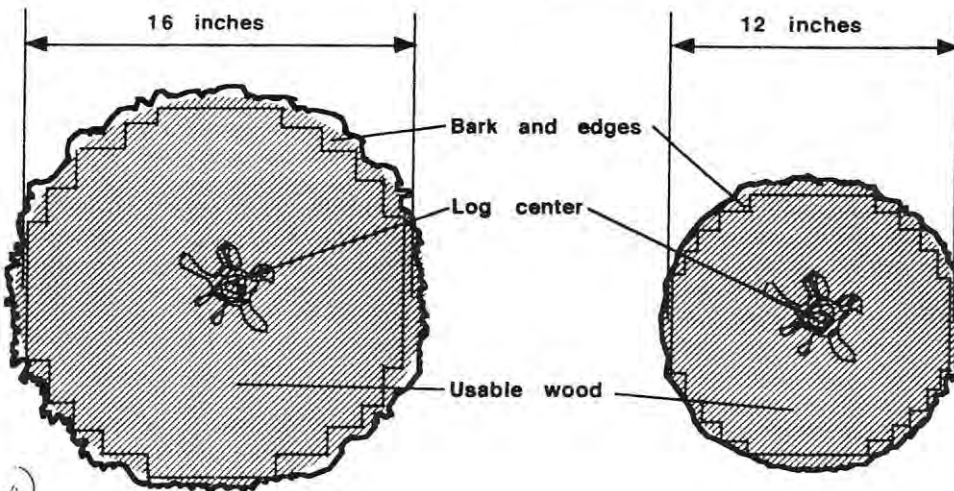
takes 10 years. Your and my conditions are probably less than ideal because of the site, the variations in the weather, insects, and other factors. So, let us say it takes 15 years. You, therefore, can quadruple the value of your 12" trees in fifteen years IF you manage the woods in a way that optimizes growth. You already know how to do that: by thinning to bring more light into the tree crowns. Simple, easy, healthy work! Think also of the fact that only large trees produce food for wildlife in significant quantities. Do not forget their awesome beauty, their encouraging message of endurance and permanence.

We forest owners are generally not aware of the potential value of our trees. If we were, we would not harvest 12" diameter trees. Have you seen many farmers who harvest their corn crop in July? Why do forest owners sell so early? It has to be ignorance. There are fiscal emergencies, of course, when we need cash, but not on the grand scale that is going on around us these days! Perhaps we do not have the vision of imagining the long view. Twenty years, forty years, sixty years are the time periods in which forest harvesting has to be viewed. Such time periods transcend generations, from grandparents to grandchildren. It is OK to think in such terms and we should get used to it. We inherit and pass on other values, and to inherit and to pass on the forest crop is no different.

We own the forest and we take the risks of storms, insects, fungi, etc.; and of course we pay taxes. But we get short term values in return which compensate us: the family picnics, the solitary walks, the exercise of jogging and working in the woods, wild flowers, songbirds, berries and our own fresh air! Our trees sort of grow by themselves in the background. If we manage that process, the annual rate of growth is in excess of 10%. When the trees become mature as individuals and as an investment, we should count our blessings and harvest them;...but not until then!

*Peter, a NYFOA Director, representative for Tompkins County to the NYS DEC Region 7 Forest Practice Board, and a Master Forest Owner is a frequent contributor to the NY FOREST OWNER.*

DIAMETER AT SMALL END, INSIDE BARK :



*(10 ft. log)*  
*(Surface)*

**VOLUME IN BOARD FEET (BDFT) PER FOOT OF LOG LENGTH :**

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Doyle Scale:	0.9	BDFT	0.4	BDFT
1/4" International:	1.1	BDFT	0.55	BDFT

*correct according to surface area*

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*NYFOA members Tom and Sandy Shows with grandson Dylan (center) at '94 Family Forest Fair.*



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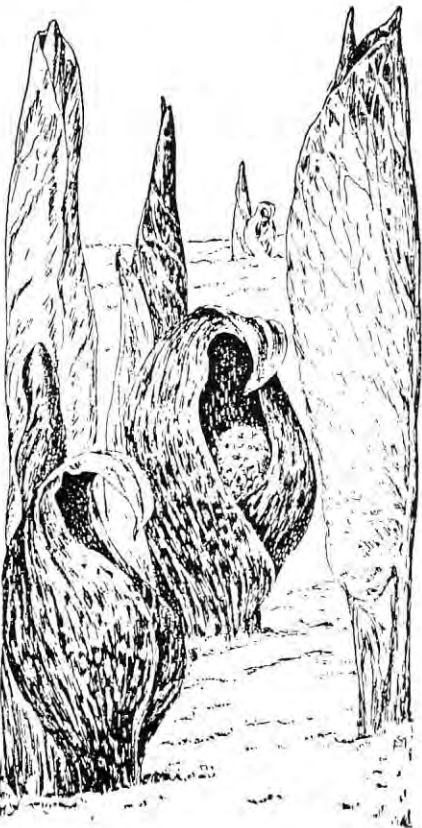
# On Early Spring Herbs

By Jane Sorensen Lord, PhD, OTR, ND

When Jill Cornell, Vice-Chairperson of NYFOA's Capital District Chapter, called and asked if I would give a woodswalk for her chapter in May on medicinal plants and trees, I told her that I don't know enough about herbs that time of the year. (I also wasn't sure I could recognize plants away from my own woodlot, anytime!)

Actually, I am in the woods a lot in April and May, but I am so busy planting and pruning my baby herbs and trees that I have not paid enough attention to the fast comings and goings of the spring plants.

I do know the roots of the skunk cabbage are used for asthma and bronchial conditions, but the one I tried to pull out was slimy and stinky so I decided to stick with mullein which I collect in the summer. The mullein flowers are so high up that you don't even have to bend over; and the soft fuzzy leaves are so big that you don't have to pick all day to get a year's supply. It



*Skunk Cabbage*

doesn't taste bad and has no smell.

I do collect some plants in the spring; because if I don't get them then, I don't get them.

Almost ready-to-open beech leaves are wonderful extracted in oil for bug bites, skin irritations, itches, and sunburn. If picked in mid-May, they are ready to be strained out and the oil used by July. The same for birch catkins makes a great moisturizer when added to avocado oil. If you want to add a little scent, stick some broken-up black birch twigs in with them for a lite wintergreen smell. For a super skin oil, mix the birch with calendula, chamomile, borage, sage, horsetail, or mullein flowers - better than Elizabeth Arden!

I gather the bright green tips of hemlock trees and white pines. The hemlock is added to scotch to make a tincture for colds and the white pine in oil is great in the bath. I particularly like it in the middle of winter — it's like taking a bath in a pine grove, gets rid of the winter doldrums, and keeps the body soft.

I also put up a few quarts of tincture of violet when the wood violets are in bloom. I take whole plants from several different plots and put them in 190 proof vodka. The vodka pulls the chlorophyll from the plant and turns an interesting shade of green. I use it as a tonic diluted with 8 parts of another liquid and take by the tablespoon every several hours when I get sick. It is an immune system enhancer and healer.

In older times before chemo- and radiation therapy violet was used internally and externally to cure cancer. They used the fresh leaves and flowers. Poultices were placed on the site and changed frequently. Violet tea, a cup of cut up smashed leaves to a pint of water, was drunk throughout the day for weeks, maybe months. I will say it has a delightful taste. If you dry the whole plants and put them in oil, you create an aromatic healing oil, good for closed wounds and sore throats. It really did help me when I slathered it all over the front of my neck and covered it over with a tea towel.

Mostly though, in the spring I tend to my herb gardens. I remove the pine boughs



*Blue  
Violet*

and take the straw off the plants. I give everybody a handful of manure or fresh leaf compost. Then I prune back some of the woody herbs like sage, rue, hyssop, thyme, lavender, and valerian. I pinch back the mints, lemon balm, betty, and chrysanthemums. I thin the poppies and borage.

I fix their name tags, and usually spend time trying to remember what I planted the last minute in fall which I didn't get to tag. Since they are often from seeds, I then have to figure out which of the new growth is desired plant and which is weed. After several destructive episodes, I have learned not to weed until I have identified which is which. I did, once, however, tenderly care for a promising crop of hayweed babies almost all summer, thinking it was wormwood. (See, Jill, why I get nervous about leading woodswalks!)

*Dr. Jane is a regular contributor to the NY FOREST OWNER, promotes the use of wild plants in our culture, and serves as Communications Liaison for the NY Tree Farm Committee. She and her husband, Gordon, are both Master Forest Owners and manage a certified tree Farm in Orange County.*

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**Jun 3:** CNY; 9PM; **FAMILY FOREST FAIR** Elbridge; (315) 689-3314.

**Jun 24:** SAC; 1PM; Open Steering Committee Meeting; Dish to Pass/Grill going; (518) 798-0248.

**Jul 9:** CDC; "Woodscanoe"; Hudson River/Ram's Horn Creek; M. Greason; (518) 943-9230.

**Jul 15:** SAC; Logging Aesthetics; Dave & Jane Jenks; Warren County

**Sep 30:** 2 Day NYFOA Fall Meeting, Hemlock Lake; Eileen Van Wie (716) 367-2849 eve.

### Coming Issues—NY Forest Owner JUL/AUG

**The Forest Behind The Trees**  
 By Paul Manion, SUNY/ESF

**Forest Soils**  
 By Edwin White, SUNY/ESF

### SEPT/OCT

**Corridor Management**  
 By Larry Abrahamson, SUNY/ESF

**Useful Ecological Concepts  
 for Regrown Forests**

By Norman Richards, SUNY/ESF