

The New York
FOREST OWNER

A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association

July/August 1995



JOHN C. MARCHANT

**THE NEW YORK
FOREST OWNER**

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COVER: John C. Marchant
(see page 16)

Photo by Charlie Mowatt

FOREST OWNER

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and Bill Miner.

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FIREWOOD



[Photo by Connie Steger]

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This being my first president's message, I would like to introduce myself and family. I am currently serving as the Assistant Dean, College of Medicine at the SUNY Health Science Center in Syracuse. I have been with the College of Medicine for 34 years and been involved in basic science research, clinical research, administration, Family Medicine, and Continuing Medical Education for health care professionals. In 1991 I was fortunate to be selected to receive one of nine Governor's Productivity Awards, presented by past governor, Mario Cuomo. I have also served as Chairman of the Central New York Chapter, NYFOA and representative to NYFOA's Board of Directors and attended the Master Forest Owner Workshop (Class of 1992).

I have two children, Todd and April. Todd is with the Onondaga County Flood Control and April is about to enter the University of North Carolina Graduate Program in pursuit of a Ph.D. in Soil Science.

My wife, Clara, is a third grade teacher in the Baldwinsville School System. She has been teaching for over 25 years, with a three year experience in a three room school house in Wisdom, Montana. Clara is currently the treasurer of NYFOA, a post she has held for the past two years.

THANK YOU

A special note of thanks to **Harold Petrie** of the THRIFT Affiliate, a charter member of NYFOA. Harold has donated the earliest of his files on NYFOA to the Archives. We are still looking for issues of the FOREST OWNER from the seventies. — *Editor*

I consider myself fortunate to follow in the wake of Stuart McCarty and Don Wagner, our two past presidents, who's leadership has moved NYFOA toward a more clearly defined mission of how we might better serve you, the members of NYFOA. During their presidencies, they both managed to assemble a cadre of outstanding individuals to serve on the Board of Directors. This very diversified and creative Board has before it a challenge which will shape how we define ourselves and set goals that will have a lasting effect for years to come.

Two of the most pressing issues facing NYFOA is our not-for-profit status and our fiscal future. At the June, 1995 Board Meeting, we will address the issue related to the type of not-for-profit organization we would like to become. Linked to this decision are financial alternatives that would allow us to seek non-traditional (other than membership fees) sources of funding in support of this organization. We are poised to take that first step into the future.

I would also like you to know that my first charge will always be the care and fostering of our statewide chapters. Our chapters and affiliates are the heart of NYFOA. If you have questions and/or suggestions, please pass them along...I look forward to hearing from you.

As a footnote, I would like to send my congratulations to the CNY Chapter on their success with the 2nd Annual Family Forest Fair. Attendance was up over last year and the educational programs were very well received. Nearly two hundred tickets were sold for the "NYFOA Quilt



President Bill Miner

Raffle". It was great to see members from several other chapters pitch-in to make this a success. I am sure that Bob Sykes and Mary Richardson will give us a detailed report in a coming issue of THE FOREST OWNER.

The Angelus

By Dorothy S. Darling

When the soaring sound of bells
reaches deep into the forest,
their melodies are held and hushed
by the rising wells of gentle air
until they have conversed
with every bough and leaf,
with every reed and sunrayed stream,
and with slow, consoling tolls
where there is grief.

Compelling comes the song of bells
where tall trees rise to screen
the melody and import the softer
spirals of sound into the woodland,
moved by wind, as fingers upon a harp,
across the outstretched branch, fleet
and trembling the bright needles of Pines,
wrapt in a pastoral symphony,
and when the bells cease their tolling,
night will bring sleep.

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THE FOREST BEHIND THE TREES: Regulators, Terminators, And Resource Recovery Agents

By Paul D. Manion, SUNY/ESF

Behind every mature tree there is approximately a million seeds, one hundred thousand viable seed, ten thousand germlings, one thousand seedlings, one hundred saplings, and ten pole sized trees. What happened to this large complex forest? What happened to the previous generation of mature trees and the forest behind them that occupied the site two to three centuries ago? What happened to the generations of forests that have occupied the sites in New York for ten to twelve thousand years since the last ice age? And, what happened to the forests that have occupied the planet since trees evolved three hundred million years ago?

You may say these are nonsense questions. They have no relevance to decisions that I make today. If pressed further, you may suggest that wind and fire destroyed the trees and that birds and animals ate the seeds and seedlings. If this is your understanding of the forest behind the trees then you cannot recognize the forest for the trees.

The dominate forces that regulate, terminate, and recover resources from the forest behind the trees are the wood decay fungi. Understanding their evolutionary significance and present roles will give you a better appreciation of the forest, a better understanding of what to expect from the forest, and a better foundation for making forest stewardship decisions.

As an aside, I use the term stewardship rather than management to emphasize the proper role for forest owners. Can we truly manage a forest system that took three hundred million years to develop? We can exploit or destroy the forest under the guise of management. Stewardship more properly identifies our short term tenuous, ephemeral position in a sustainable forest ecosystem.

Returning to the topic of the forest behind the trees, let me outline my objectives: **i)** to first consider what the world would be like without the wood decay fungi, **ii)** to describe briefly what wood decay fungi are doing as they convert a black cherry worth \$500.00 stumpage value, to bird and small animal dens worth \$? and to humus of the forest floor worth \$?, **iii)** to illustrate one very common group of wood decay fungi that regulate, terminate, and participate in resource recovery in the forest, and



Figure 1 - Young *Armillaria* mushrooms.

iv) to provide some practical suggestions for dealing with the forest behind the trees. Specifically I will highlight the shoestring fungi (*Armillaria spp.*), that put on a spectacular show, that many of you may have noticed in the fall of 1994.

A World Without Wood Decay Fungi

It is not too difficult to visualize a world without wood decay fungi. Right? The stems and branches of dead trees, that account for approximately three quarters of the total biomass of the forest, would just accumulate over millions of years. Picture the depth of the litter layer of such a forest. In dryer areas fires would recycle the massive accumulations of litter at various intervals. In wetter areas the litter would become so deep that trees would no longer be rooted in the soil but would survive and propagate through roots produced from branches buried in the surface duff. The duff would be made up of non-decomposing woody material and the composting succulent material. Over millions of years the accumulating litter, some of which would become buried between silt and ash, would become coal. Dramatic changes in the temperature and other features of the planet would occur as the carbon dioxide, slowly locked up over time in the litter, would eventually strangle plant life. Ani-

mal life, dependant on the plants, would be starved and reduced to those that could survive on the decomposing material. Massive world wide fires on a dying planet could then quickly release the carbon dioxide and allow unique survivors to evolve.

What Are Wood Decay Fungi Doing?

Do you believe any of this description of a world without wood decay fungi? Why not? Regardless of your acceptance or rejection of the ideas, there is a three hundred million year successful foundation behind the trees and the forest ecosystem. It is the organization of cellulose, the most abundant organic material on the planet, with lignin, the second most abundant organic material on the planet, into woody cells; and the aggregation and organization of these and a few other molecules into long conducting tubes, structural elements, and storage cells, that has allowed trees to become, what some suggest are, the largest and longest lived things on the planet. Actually, this organization has allowed a wood decay fungus, *Armillaria*, (Fig. 1 and Fig. 2) to become the largest and longest lived thing on the planet.

There are many microorganisms that can digest cellulose; but only a limited number of organisms that can digest wood - cellulose in the presence of lignin. The wood

decay fungi utilize a fine thread like growth form called **hyphae** to tunnel deep into the wood tissue. The hyphae can branch and subbranch indefinitely. Digestive enzymes produced near the tips of the growing hyphae break the long chain cellulose molecule into shorter soluble fragments that are absorbed by the fungus and utilized as a nutrient source. Some wood decay fungi, called **brown rotters**, digest primarily cellulose. Other wood decay fungi, called **white rotters**, have the enzymes to digest both cellulose and lignin.

Hyphae are microscopic in size. The digestive enzymes for cellulose and lignin are below a size that can be visualized; but models can be produced based on our understanding of the chemical structures. But before we lose sight of reality, we had better get back to the \$500 black cherry.

The tree may already be worthless as a quality sawlog. Why? When the logger is cutting your cherry trees he looks at the color of the chips coming from the chain saw. If the chips are a deep red color, he may move up or down the log a bit to find an area where the chips are not red; but the portion of the tree with red chips will not be hauled to the mill and converted into dollars in your pocket.

The red color indicates that heart rot wood decay fungi are well established in your prize tree; and they are doing what they were programmed, two hundred million years ago, to do. They are functioning as a resource recovery agent - to recycle the carbon and other elements that are locked up in your tree. In addition the decay fungi are regulating the abundance of cavity nesting birds and small animals in

Professor Manion is currently working on the development of a correspondence course entitled, "The Forest Behind The Trees: Regulators, Terminators, and Resource Recovery Agents". The course will utilize the book, "Tree Disease Concepts" second edition (authored by P. Manion and published by Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ). A study guide and videos from the forest and laboratory will attempt to focus the topic of regulators, terminators, and resource recovery agents on New York forests. The course should be available for the general public in 1996. For information contact Robert Koepper, Dean of Continuing Education and Public Service, State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, 1 Forestry Drive, Syracuse, NY 13210 (phone 315/470-6891)



Figure 2 - Older *Armillaria* mushrooms.

your forest. The decay fungi also function as terminators by eventually causing the structurally weakened tree to collapse under its own weight. Other saprobic decay fungi, resource recovery agents, will then continue the recycling process by turning your valuable tree into more carbon dioxide and water and mineral holding organic matter in the soil that will support future generations of trees.

The heart rot decay fungus first became established in your tree decades to a century before you were involved. an ice storm, not unlike the type experienced in the Rochester area a couple of years ago, caused breakage of branches in the upper crown. Strong winds could also have initiated breakage of branches. Any type of wound through the bark is an infection site for the microscopic spores of wood decay fungi. These spores were produced in fruit bodies or conks that are all too familiar in New York forests.

Interestingly enough, one finds very few obvious conks on black cherry. The specific decay fungi that invade black cherry apparently produce less conspicuous conks. There has been very little research in the past fifty years on the decay problems of cherry; although the problem is very common, we have a limited understanding of the specific fungi involved. We likewise have little understanding of the decay fungi that invade wounds produced in black cherry during thinnings and selection harvesting activities.

Someone experienced in timber marking may have been able to recognize the indicators of heart rot decay in the tree be-

fore it is felled. Things to look for in black cherry are large decayed branch stubs and the openings used by cavity nesting birds and small animals. The woodpeckers and other cavity nesting birds have long ago determined that it is much easier to excavate a cavity by removing decayed wood rather than sound wood.

Armillaria Species, Very Significant Regulators, Terminators, And Resource Recovery Agents Of The Forest

Now that you are thinking on a grand scale and while considering your economic objectives as they are affected by and subsequently affect the grand scheme of things, let us move down to the "root of the matter" and briefly comment on a very important group of decay fungi, *Armillaria, spp.*, commonly called the shoe string fungi. *Armillaria* mushrooms were very commonly seen last fall throughout New York woodlands. Spores produced in the cream to light tan colored mushrooms may infect through the roots and lower stem. For some reason, the mushrooms of *Armillaria* were very common in the fall of 1994. I only recall one other year in the past twenty-five in which *Armillaria* fruiting was so abundant. Usually only a few to no fruit bodies are seen each year. The mushrooms growing abundantly from stumps, dying trees, and from presumably healthy trees are only the tip of the iceberg for this fungus. They should remind you of the massive amounts of fungus hyphae involved in degrading the wood and recycling the carbon of living and dead trees.

But actually, infection of trees by spores of *Armillaria* is a very infrequent event. Most infections occur through contacts of black shoe string like rhizomorphs of the fungus with roots of stressed trees (Fig. 3). The rhizomorphs are aggregations of fungus hyphae that, protected by a black outer covering, grow out from a colonized base of woody material in search of other woody material to colonize. Single rhizomorphs may grow thirty feet or more in length. Rhizomorphs of one individual fungus growing out in different direction may colonize roots and other woody debris over a large area, over time spans that exceed multiple generations of trees. Those that have worked with this fungus have speculated that the aggregate mass of fungus material from a single infection in the forest makes this the largest living organism. Understanding the rate of growth of the fungus also suggests that some of these colonies are older than any other living organism.

Practical Suggestions

One should not necessarily become overly alarmed when Armillaria is seen fruiting in the forest. In fact, one should initially be thankful that such organisms regulate, terminate, and provide for resource recovery for the forest system.

This type of fatalistic thinking may seem acceptable for those whose stewardship objectives lean toward undisturbed "natural" forests where dying and dead trees are not viewed as lost income, but the forest steward of a commercial wood enterprise should be stimulated by the observation of the decay fungi to remember that the decay fungi are regulating and terminating individual trees in the forest that could be used for forest products.

The forest steward should avoid wounding trees and selectively remove damaged and decayed trees during thinning operations. These activities will concentrate growth on quality sawlog trees rather than those destined by the decay regulators to become cavity trees. These damaged and/or decayed trees have been programmed by the regulators for natural termination.

If you really understand the forest behind the trees you recognize that to go from a fully stocked stand of 11 inch diameter trees to a stand of 16 inch diameter trees, about half of the 11 inch trees must die. Likewise approximately two thirds of the



Figure 3 - Black Armillaria rhizomorphs on the surface of a root.

6 inch trees must die for the trees to reach 11 inches. You might consider how many 1 inch diameter trees must die for the forest

to expand to 6 inch diameter trees. An astute forest steward has the foresight to identify which trees are programmed for termination by the regulators. These trees can be left for the natural resource recovery agents or can be utilized for economic return.

Summary

If you consider what the world was like before the evolution of wood decay fungi, you are in a better position to properly recognize what wood decay fungi are doing and why. The massive amounts of carbon that are tied up in the cellulose and lignin molecules, that make up wood, need to be efficiently recycled. The spectacular mushroom bloom in the fall of 1994 is just a small part of a large complex system where growth of individual trees is intimately tied to the death and recycling of others. The competent forest steward uses his or her understanding of the forest behind the trees, regulators, terminators, and resource recovery agents to effectively maximize growth and quality of forest products without upsetting the sustainability of the forest ecosystem.

Dr. Paul Manion is Professor of Forest Pathology at State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

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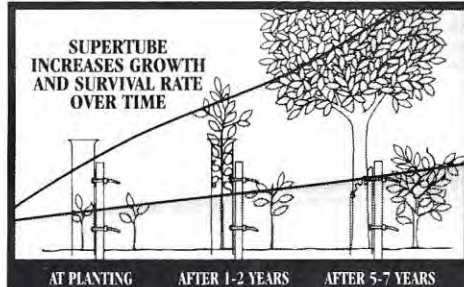
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TAXES, TAXES, TAXES

By Henry S. Kernan

As befits our numbering over eight million, we small non-industrial private forest owners (NIPF) are a diverse group; yet we have a grievance in common. We see real property taxes as hindrances to our stewardship of over 274 million acres, more than half the country's wooded total, the most productive half, and the nearest to where people live.

Anyone can state with truth to being better off paying less tax. So what? The "what" in this case are the environmental non-marketable values which have replaced timber in views of what is mostly important about wooded land. Privately owned, yet publicly shared and cherished, those non-timber values are not related to markets and potential income; but are taxed as such. Herein lies a paradox which even preferential tax treatments have not resolved.

We small forest owners have much support in our contention that we are overly and inequitably taxed. The Northern Forest Lands Council has called the real property tax a threat and an impediment, an outdated and inequitable form of raising public revenue. Forest stewards, meeting in Nebraska City, put the real property tax in the forefront of their problems. A poll by the National Woodland Owners Association has done so year after year.

The problems of taxing forest lands and tree crops fairly are an old story, having appeared in the literature of forestry as early as 1788, in Austria. In this country states began to give preferential tax treatment to forest lands more than a century ago, and now number at least forty; yet, the grievances and impediments remain. Evidently woodlands and their crops have problems of valuation and payment to which the real property tax is not well suited.

The tax has roots in a rural past of dirt roads and one room schoolhouses, of wealth still mostly in buildings and farms. Their relation to the welfare state is less clear; yet the tax hangs on. Easy to calculate and collect, the revenues give viability to local governments and schools. Legislators like a tax that allows exemptions and mandates to favored groups, to be paid for by the minority of juristic persons who own real property.



Spring 1947, new owner, Henry Kernan, looks for the first time at the old growth hemlock in his woodlands. Taxes, then, were \$200 per year; they are now \$10,443.

Occasional timber sales do not easily pay annual taxes. Even that income is at risk because of natural catastrophes: wind, fire, insects, and disease. To an extent they can be controlled; but they can not be eliminated from the forest. They are too much part of the long term health and renewal. Moreover small forests attract taxes high relative to the public services they receive. Contributing may be absentee ownerships, frequent sales, and their being perceived as desultory distractions of the well off rather than as sources of income. Values other than income must account for willingness to own forest land. New York has 13.5 million acres of private forest whose owners pay far more in property taxes than they receive from timber sales.

For such reasons assessments based upon real property markets are thought to discourage investments that enhance forest values sought by the public, and to bring about conversions to uses that preclude those values.

To correct so flawed a system, so ill adapted to forests, the most widely recommended and accepted alternative has been "current use" instead of highest and best use (market value). The concept has wide appeal and support. Nevertheless current

use assessments have not ended complaints and controversies; they may also be flawed and for several reasons.

A joint report of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Board of Equalization and Assessment, dated December 1993, contains the following judgement:

"We do not see the "current use" approach as a reliable means of determining forest values and fear that it would result in both considerable controversy and additional administrative costs. Experience with assessments of forest land indicates that although several states claim to have current use tax programs, these programs are no less arbitrary than New York's at arriving at a value for property tax purposes. Moreover New York has had experience with the problems associated with calculating "use values" for agricultural lands since 1971. Notwithstanding the fact that there is a basis for the concept in economic and valuation theory, finding a practical methodology has proven to be impossible. As a result the procedure used has been substantially revised on two occasions, and it has been the subject of much controversy over the past two decades. Thus, there appears to be no real advan-

tages and several serious drawbacks to the "use value" approach."

Current use assessments do raise the opportunity costs of sales to the owner, and to that extent head off developers. Nevertheless, to developers the cost of land is not often the decisive cost of conversion. Perhaps a tax on the transaction can bring with it the deterrence needed.

The certainty of current use assessments on forest lands raises their value so that upon sale the present owners receive a one-time windfall. As fast as ownerships change, the effects of the preferential assessment work themselves out in the higher cost of their forest land to the new owners. Having paid more, they are not always better off; because of current use, and public revenues are less.

At least assessments at highest and best use have market sales to back them. For current use, such evidence is more difficult to come by. Inevitably a use value must be sought. Since timber is the only marketable product of forest land, use value means potential income from timber. Recommendations for potential income from timber as the basis of assessment appear frequently. Nevertheless, to calculate potential income from a given piece of forest land is, practically speaking, impossible without unacceptable controversy and confusion. Too much uncertainty and too many variables must enter the calculations. Without a practical methodology, the results become assessments stalemated at what each side will accept.

Furthermore, timber income does not motivate most forest ownerships as perhaps it was once thought to do when timber famine was perceived as a threat. The values now in fashion are non-marketable and non-consumptive. Our reserves are no longer for timber; but for owls, woodpeck-

ers, and backpackers. To base preferential tax treatments of forest land upon the wood products resource alone appears unrealistic.

Trees are the dominant, distinguishing components of the forest, whose values we cherish. All trees withdraw carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, intercept precipitation, and pump moisture out off the soil. They also enrich and aerate the soil, on which they grow, with decay of their leaves and roots. Wild creatures and humans look to forests for food, shelter, and the environmental conditions that make life possible.

Trees and forests carry on those life allowing functions regardless of the details of ownership, place, age, species, density, site quality, and extent of the property. A yellow birch deep in the Adirondack Forest Preserve functions much like an *Ailanthus* in the Bronx. The one has the attributes of wilderness, while the other brings shade and greenery where needed most.

Those thoughts suggest that because all forests are similar in their most important attributes and functions; their taxes should be uniform. Besides producing results that are uncomplicated and stable, a uniform tax does away with the uncertainties and inequities of assessments based upon market values, current use, income potential, bargaining, and privilege. Low taxes uniformly applied recognize a forest as a public asset that makes few demands upon public services and generates indispensable environmental values. A rate that considers those values will diffuse the grievance and threat of an outdated and inequitable way to raise revenue. An inducement to trust and stewardship will ensue within which programs of education, incentives, and demonstration become more effective.

The proposal is innovative, even shocking to entrenched concepts of market and use value as bases for real property assessment, perhaps because the process of adjustment is so uneven. A uniform tax rate does give more relief to valuable, highly taxed forest lands near the suburban fringe, but lands also of high environmental value and most at risk.

A complicating issue has been the extent to which public agencies are to use preferential laws to influence management. The purpose of the laws should be equities for the owners and retention of the forests for their environmental values. Productivity of the private property is the owner's business.

As forest management encompasses broader values, standards become more difficult to define and enforce, with ever more confusion and expense. **If the case for preferential tax treatments of forest lands is valid and does bring benefits to the public as well as the owner, they should apply to all forests and all owners.**

Country wide, the real property tax is under review, for funding local government, welfare, and schools. The review and conclusions should consider the special problems and values of forest land within the overall tax structures. Such a strategy, that encompasses more taxpayers and has wider targets, wins most friends for us NIPFs and may be the best one to follow.

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

ASSEMBLY CONSIDERING REAL PROPERTY TAXES

Comments directed at revision of 480, 480A, and design of real property tax of forest lands may be addressed to Assemblyman Peter J. Abbate Jr., Chairman of the Real Property Tax Committee, Room 538; Legislative Office Building; Albany, NY 12248 or Assemblyman Will Stephens Jr., Room 433; LOB; Albany, NY 12248.

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NYFOA's Fall Meeting Schedule

September 30-October 1, 1995

Hosted by WFL Chapter

Lakeville, NY (North end of Conesus Lake.)

The field trips will encompass Canadice & Hemlock Lakes, water sources for the City of Rochester.

SATURDAY, September 30, 1995

- 8-9:30 AM Registration (at J.J. Leasure Restaurant & Motor Inn.)
10-12:30 PM Field trip including: conifer thinning, forest litter importance to watersheds, storm damage, & tree defense systems.
12:30-1:15 PM Box Lunch at boat launch.
1:15-4:30 PM Field trip combining a timber sale; developing a hiking trail, and forest aesthetics.
6 PM Dinner.
7:30 PM Slide Presentation by Bruce Robinson, Private Consulting Forester. Drawing for door prizes & the beautiful quilt crafted by Betty Wagner.

SUNDAY, October 1, 1995

- 8:00 AM Optional breakfast buffet, \$4.95 per person.
10-12 PM Hike to look at wetlands project; some completed, some under construction.

ACCOMODATIONS:

J.J. Leasure Restaurant & Motor Inn. (NYFOA HDQS)-(716)346-2120
(Only 24 rooms available & will be held until September 8)
Conesus Lake Campground. (716)346-5472.
Southern Shores Campground. (716)346-5482.
Letchworth State Park. (716)493-2611.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete and mail this form (or copy) before Sept. 11, with your check payable to NYFOA to: Eileen Van Wie, 6017 County Rd #37, Springwater, NY 14560. For questions, call (716)367-2849.

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TIMBER THIEVES BEWARE

By Ron Pedersen

This exchange of letters followed Attorney General Vacco's 3/14/95 motion before the state supreme court charging that David M. Subic of Johnstown has continued to cut timber despite a 1994 court order that permanently barred him from the lumber business. That court order stemmed from a suit brought by the Attorney General's office in February 1994 contending that Subic routinely failed to pay for lumber and firewood that he removed from customers' land, that he cut more timber than authorized, including removing timber from lands adjoining that of his customers, and that his logging practices caused excessive environmental damage.

The state learned that Subic continued his logging business despite the court order and also has failed to pay the \$650,000 restitution and penalties ordered by the court. Hence, the Attorney General is now seeking criminal and civil contempt charges against Subic.

Dear Attorney General Vacco:

The New York Forest Owners Association notes with great interest and support your criminal and civil contempt proceedings against an Albany area logger who has ignored the 1994 court order barring him from the lumber business.

With the increase in value of New York's prized hardwoods, incidents of timber theft are becoming increasingly common. While our 2000 members believe that dishonest loggers are a very small minority in the forest products industry, the huge environmental damage and monetary loss they can cause in a short period of time can be devastating to a land owner.

Effective enforcement and timely prosecution of timber theft assures punishment of the guilty and provides an essential deterrent for others who may be tempted to steal timber. Our association stands ready to assist you, district attorneys, and state and local enforcement agencies in any way we can to further prosecution of timber thieves.

Sincerely,
/s/ Don J. Wagner
President, NYFOA

Input on timber theft and trespass may be directed to NYFOA, c/o Ronald W. Pedersen, 22 Vandenburg Lane, Latham, NY 12110-1189.

Dear Mr. Wagner,

Our forest products industry plays an important role in preserving and enhancing New York's pristine environment, while also helping our state's economy to grow.

Unfortunately, a small minority of dishonest loggers has helped tarnish the industry's reputation of concern and care for our environment.

My office is committed to preserving our environment -- and to restoring the public's confidence in the timber owners'

and workers' commitment to being responsible stewards of our precious natural resources.

By working together to combat illicit timber practices by unscrupulous loggers and others, we can accomplish that and also ensure that New York's forest products industry remains strong, and our environment remains pure.

Sincerely,
/s/ Dennis C. Vacco
Attorney General

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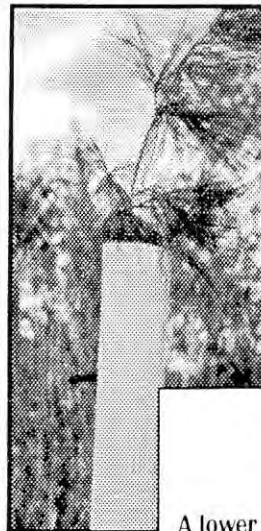
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BOOK REVIEW

THE NORTHERN FOREST

By David Dobbs and Richard Ober

368 pages with maps, a glossary, index, and a short bibliography, *THE NORTHERN FOREST* deals with the 26 million acres located in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York; the same region contemporaneously examined in the comprehensive study by the Northern Forest Lands Council (NFLC, see *NY FOREST OWNER*, M/J 95). This book, however, is not a government publication; but a sensitive personal account drawn from named individuals with lives intimately linked to the past and future of the four state area.

The authors have chosen residents as representatives of the different stakeholders; such as, sportsmen, birders, owners, professional managers, and political leaders. They are quoted with suitable background in the fashion of a journalist while interspersing observations of both natural and cultural content. This approach describes the conflicts which accompany land use with a reality not captured in the government report.

Although the opinions and comments generated by the special grass roots efforts of the NFLC, represent a remarkable result by government to detail traditional use and future stewardship of this great forest, Dobbs and Ober avoid the ponderous, retain the required objectivity, entertain, and, most importantly, convey heart.

To read a book which pointedly endeavors to contribute to the debates, to be useful in its contribution, and to be accurate and evenhanded in its representation is certainly worth the time. To also feel the sentiments and passions of the people who live on the land, is to share and be comforted in the difficulties of forestry with which all of us are familiar. As a typical example, Dobbs and Ober acknowledge the brown-headed cowbird parasitism and the scientific uncertainties associated with the decrease in northern nesting of migratory songbirds; and with equal balance they describe the pros and cons of clearcuts, both large and small. This is done not by essay and impersonal conclusions; but with in-

terviews of people while they are working in the respective environment.

With respect to the final report of the NFLC the Chairman, New York's Bob Bendick said, "...these recommendations should not just apply to the north country, but should be relevant and helpful to forest land owners throughout the four states..." This is true because of the extraordinary effort expended by the NFLC to obtain local input. I think this book by Dobbs and Ober has a comparable value with a similar message and to quote them, "To make further progress in solving complicated land-use problems, environmentalists must develop new solutions in the same way that good foresters manage woodlands: from the ground up, and in response to local conditions. And no one knows these conditions better than the locals."

Published by Chelsea Green Publishing Company of White River Junction, Vermont, *THE NORTHERN FOREST* is available at book stores or by calling 1-800-639-4099. \$23.00. — R.J. Fox



Wood Thrush, a neotropical migrant

(Graphic from *Partners in Flight Newsletter* Vol. 2 No. 2 1992)

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CHAPTER/AFFILIATES

Cayuga

April 21-28 the chapter participated with displays in the Cayuga County celebration of the 25th anniversary of the first Earth Day at several locations.

Members of the chapter were involved with other organizations in the planting of American Chestnut trees from four different genetic strains at four institutional sites and at numerous private properties. The institutional sites were: two sportsmen's clubs, the county community college, and, significantly, Fillmore Glen State Park; over 100 trees were planted with more pledged!

May 20th, the Cayuga Chapter with participation of the Central NY and Tioga Chapters, the county Environmental Management Council, and the Cornell Cooperative Extension sponsored the down-link site for the Oklahoma Extension Service's National Video Conference, "Managing Forest Ecosystems".



Arbor Day 1995, scouts and their leaders plant American Chestnut seedlings on property of the Cayuga County Sportsmen's Club.

Catskill Forest Association

As reported in the last issue of THE FOREST OWNER, the Catskill region had been nominated for Biosphere Reserve designation. The honor is granted by the United Nations Man and the Biosphere program to help address conservation and sustainable development issues on a large scale. The designation is honorary and participation is voluntary. **There is no regulatory component to the designation.** However, announcement of the proposed designation drew unexpected criticism and opposition. Letters of agreement from the counties included in the designation must accompany the nomination; but several of the counties have already voted against the proposal. Most county officials agree that it is because the Biosphere Reserve program is something that they don't know enough about. The nomination has been tabled indefinitely.

Jack & Nancy McShane have been named 1995 New York State Outstanding Tree Farmers



*Jack McShane
NYS Outstanding Tree Farmer for 1995.*

Jack, President of CFA, is a retired NYC policeman and Nancy is an airline attendant for American Airline. They purchased their 254 acre parcel on Bussey Hollow Road in Andes (Delaware County) in 1986. Their 185 forested acres became NY Tree Farm #2949 in July 1993; the inspecting forester was Dinnie Sloman. The primary objectives of the McShane Tree Farm are wildlife management and habitat improvement and enjoyment of the property (hunting, fishing, and hiking). Timber production is a secondary, but important goal. The farm has an extensive road system, over 75 bird houses, and Stewardship Incentives Program practices; such as, Timber Stand Improvement (TSI), seep development, and trail improvement.

Jack is a graduate of the NYS Ranger School and a very active Master Forest Owner. As a MFO, Jack is involved at the community, regional, state, and even national levels (The National Conference on Forest Stewardship in Nebraska).

Western Finger Lakes

Despite the chilly weather approximately 40 people viewed Dale Schaefer's woods two years after a timber sale.

Arbor Day, WFL members and the family and friends of Bruce Byington planted

an English Oak on the Honeoye School grounds in Bruce's memory.

A successful woodwalk was accomplished on Don & Suzie Grosz's property.

We had a perfect day with another large group of 40 people. Their ideas and forestry practices have created a beautiful place to commune with nature.

Southeastern Adirondack

Over 60 persons attended our April 15th spring woodwalks; guests included Matt Penrod, current vice-chair of the NYS Tree Farm Committee and Wayne Underwood, SIP contractor.

At Richard Glasser's property, we saw how goldenrod and sumac can be turned into a field of clover; how Japanese larch, spruce, and apple trees were planted to enhance and restore habitat. Long held ideas were compared to current practices in regard to the forest stewardship program, using bluebird houses, importance of soil samples in site preparation, etc.

As Ron Cadieux, NYS DEC Sr. Forester, stated, "The trails are the finest I've seen." We all saw and walked some of them at the David Schoenbrod and Jan Selby property. We appreciated the leaf blower's



Ron Cadieux explains how to establish a permanent wildlife food plot (SIP #8) on the Schoenbrod/Selby property. Photo by Patricia Kay

use which made it easier to walk.... We saw how the 125 acres are managed for viewing, recreation, and conservation. We learned that it's important to make the

curves of trails wider to accommodate any needed fire equipment and that conservation seed mixture with a 30% shady mix variety works good on a shady trail.

33RD ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

By Betty Densmore

Spring meetings just keep getting better and more interesting. Again, this year, many of us had the opportunity to welcome a new president: **Bill Miner**, for the next watch. We got all the reports, how we did last year, how we fare financially, and we got our last report from retiring Executive Director, **John Marchant**. NYFOA is growing and getting bigger and better every year.

Keith Argow, President of the National Woodland Owners Association, travelled from Virginia to share his views on the National Forestry Perspective. Keith was eloquent and informative and amusing. Forestry is getting lots of attention....some good, some not so good. The really good news is that many competent people are at work in each state and nationally to try to keep a good balance of conservation and stewardship. Educating legislators is high on the agenda; and the interests of all forest owners are being served.

Neil Lampson of the U.S. Forest Service gave an excellent talk on Crop Tree Management with lots of slides to help us understand the concepts involved.

Lunch (and a good one) was followed by the awards ceremony. It is always fun to see deserving people honored by their peers.

The afternoon's program was a romp in cyberspace and high technology with **Jeff Nugent** of the Northern Forest Lands Inventory who showed us how GIS (Geographic Information System), GPS (Global Positioning System), and Remote Sensing can provide woodlot owners with com-



NYFOA 1995 Spring Meeting. — Photo courtesy of Keith Argow.

binations of maps and details heretofore unavailable or uncommon.

Daniel McGough with the nyforestsONLINE program showed us how to tap into a huge fund of information through our computers. It's easy, fun, inexpensive, and puts you on the cutting edge of forestry ideas and innovations. It does look fairly simple for anyone with the most basic computer skills. This offers woodlot owners an enormous menu of facts and avenues to further information on the questions and concerns that keep us awake at night.

Robin Hoffman, Landscape Architect, gave a slide presentation of timber harvesting with an eye to improving the visual quality of property. Her program graphically illustrated simple things that we can

do to make property look more attractive after a harvest.

We were all given a program evaluation form to complete and were asked to propose ideas for future annual meetings. These evaluation forms contributed to the last few meetings...after all, NYFOA wants to offer its membership a program of lasting value. If future meetings are as good as this past one; I hope more of you will take the time to travel to Syracuse for them; these programs are one of the great perks of belonging to NYFOA. It is always a treat to talk with people from different parts of New York State and see how NYFOA has affected their approach to stewardship.

Betty Densmore is Chairperson of NYFOA's Editorial Committee.

Betty & Don Wagner Win NYFOA Award

The New York Forest Owners Association's Outstanding Service Award was presented to Betty and Don Wagner at the 33rd Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet held April 29 at Marshall Hall, SUNY/ESF.

Betty Wagner has designed and crafted two beautiful quilts and donated them to benefit NYFOA. The first quilt provided the Central New York Chapter with a tremendous boost to their treasury; receipts from the raffle of the second quilt will enrich both the general NYFOA treasury and a proportional fraction to each chapter or affiliate according to their donations. These quilts represent the "labor of love" typical of NYFOA Awardees.

Don is serving his second term as Director and just finished two years as President. His energy and leadership have produced outstanding results. Membership has increased by over 23% during this time. Don worked very hard to get more people involved and liked committees to be active.



Bob Sand (l), Don and Betty Wagner with NYFOA Award.

He gave freely of his time and energy to meet and know a great many members personally; and attended chapter and affiliate meetings in every corner of the state.

Bob Sand (l), Don and Betty Wagner with NYFOA award.

The Heiberg Memorial Award

A renowned Professor of Silviculture, Svend O. Heiberg devoted much of his career here at the N.Y. College of Forestry. Dr. Heiberg first proposed the establishment of an association of Forest Landowners in N.Y. State. He enlisted the efforts of Dean Shirley and together they initiated the meetings that eventually organized this successful Forest Owners Association. This award is presented in Dr. Heiberg's memory.

1966	Hardy Shirley
1967	David B. Cook
1968	Floyd Carlson
1969	Mike Demeree
1970	No Award
1971	Fred Winch, Jr.
1972	John Stock
1973	Robert M. Ford
1974	C. Eugene Farnsworth
1975	Alex Dickson
1976	Edw. W. Littlefield
1977	Maurice Postley
1978	Ralph Nyland
1979	Fred C. Simmons
1980	William Harlow
1981	Curtis H. Bauer
1982	Neil B. Gutches
1983	David W. Taber
1984	John W. Kelley
1985	Robert G. Potter
1986	Karyn B. Richards
1987	Henry G. Williams
1988	Robert M. Sand
1989	Willard G. Ives
1990	Ross S. Whaley
1991	Robt. S. Stegemann
1992	Bonnie & Don Colton
1993	Michael C. Greason
1994	Douglas C. Allen
1995	John C. Marchant

(see page 16)

Wes Suhr Receives Special Award



Bob Sand and Wes Suhr

Wesley E. Suhr has been a member of NYFOA for ten years, serving two terms as a Board Director and seven years as THE FOREST OWNER's *Ask A Forester* Editor. Wes organized the Northern Adirondack Chapter, served three years as chapter chair, and four years as publisher of NAC News. He published THE WOODLAND STEWARD for three years and is a member of the DEC Region 6 Forest Practice Board. Wes received the 1993 NYFOA Outstanding Service Award.

Wes was recognized by the NY Society of American Foresters with the 1994 Forestry Education Award. He started teaching here in NY at the Wanakena Ranger School in 1974; 1982-1985 he served as the Director; and in 1988 he retired.

New York Forest Owners Outstanding Service Award

1978	Emiel Palmer	1984	Dorothy Wertheimer	1990	Earl Pfarner
1979	Ken Eberley	1985	David H. Hanaburgh	1991	Helen & John Marchant
1980	Helen Varian	1986	A.W. Roberts, Jr.	1992	Richard J. Fox
1981	J. Lewis Dumond	1987	Howard O. Ward	1993	Wesley E. Suhr
1982	Lloyd Strombeck	1988	Mary & Stuart McCarty	1994	Alfred B. Signor
1983	Evelyn Stock	1989	Alan R. Knight	1995	Betty & Don Wagner

"Watersheds are Essential to Our Lives"

48th New York State Woodsmen's Field Days

PUBLIC SEMINAR

Adirondack High School

Ford Street (Route 294), Boonville, NY

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 1995

6:15-6:45 PM Free Registration, door prizes; 7:10 Radio Broadcast

GOAL: To help people interested in logging, watersheds, and forestry gain power, obtain knowledge, and share their viewpoints.

OPPORTUNITY: You may participate. Aisle microphones will be available.

FORESTRY, WATERSHEDS, TIMBER THEFT, AND POLITICS

Featuring the following speakers and topics:

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- * Responsibility & Respect: Loggers, Foresters, and Owners - **Dinnie Sloman**, Executive Director (Licensed as a lawyer), of the six county Catskill Forest Association.
- * Politics, Forest-Industry Image, and Trade Associations - **Robert G. Potter**, President, Potter Lumber Co., Inc., Allegany, NY.
- * Watersheds, Forestry, and Politics - **Richard I. Coombe**, Chair, Watershed Agricultural Council, Inc. of the 5 county Catskill and 3 county Croton watersheds for the 9 million inhabitants of the Metropolitan New York City area.
- * Timber Theft and Growing and Harvesting Forests - **David W. Taber**, Senior Extension Associate, Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University
- * Meet the speakers and refreshments: 9:30-10:00 PM. **Adjourn.**
Broadcast on Radio Station WBRV (900 AM & 101.3 FM) of the Atwood Broadcasting Corporation 7:10 PM - 9:30 PM.

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FIELD DAYS

AUG. 18, 19, & 20

The 48th annual NYS Woodsmen's Field Days held at Boonville will feature Forest Industry Tours at Ethan Allen Furniture, Pulaski Wood Company, N. M. Sargent & Sons, Harden Furniture, 3-B Timber, and Lyonsdale Energy. The tours all take place on Friday the 18th; they are free; and further details may be obtained and reservations should be made with Phyllis White, Executive Coordinator at (315)942-4593, PO Box 123, Boonville, NY 13309.

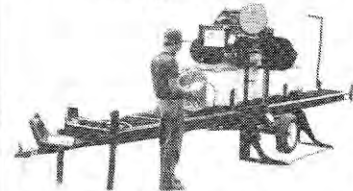
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JOHN C. MARCHANT

By Betty Densmore

John Marchant retired in April of this year as NYFOA's Executive Director; a post he has held since October of 1989. During this time he has won (with his wife, Helen) the 1991 NYFOA Outstanding Service Award and the NY Society of American Foresters Communication Award; he became an Honorary Member of the Society of American Foresters (the first in over 20 years for the NYSAF); and this year the Heiberg Award and a special award from the National Woodland Owners Association.

John has given much time, effort, and talent to NYFOA in his years as Executive Director; he has helped almost double our membership and has brought NYFOA national recognition. In mulling over how to convey John's accomplishments I thought of listing all the things he has done on NYFOA's behalf and we would have pages of copy; and this somehow missed the mark. I have chosen to ask various people who have worked with John for their words, therefore:

Helen Marchant: "I have to say I am delighted to have John retired *again*; and it has been great. Now we are doing all the things we had planned eight years ago. But I have no regrets of his involvement with NYFOA, for we have met so many wonderful people and I know he feels that has been the greatest benefit for him. Naturally I am very proud of him and always have been."

Don Wagner, Past President NYFOA: "John is the most sincere man I have ever met. In the years I have worked with him he showed nothing but total devotion to NYFOA, even when it interfered with things he would rather have been doing; he never lost focus on NYFOA. He is brilliant with a very analytical mind and a very generous person. He gave so much beyond his time to NYFOA. I wish he'd smile more."

Mike Greason, NYS DEC Associate Forester: "For me, John has been an inspiration. At a time when I was becoming frustrated with my career, John came along to provide extremely effective leadership for forestry and thus rebuilt my energy and purpose. John is a man of great vision who also possesses the ability to conceive projects and the ability to network people to work towards that vision. He develops puzzle parts which make the big picture achievable. He provides this leadership in such a quiet, generous manner that people



John and Boy Scout Troop on woodswalk.

are drawn to support whatever he is leading. In my career, I've been fortunate to meet many, many wonderful landowners who love our state's "treemendous" renewable forest resource. Without a doubt, John leads the pack."

Marian Mowatt, Secretary AFC NYFOA, "I know most humans aren't interested but John likes sauted parsnips!"

Bob Sand, Awards Committee Chairman: "In 1989 John volunteered to act as NYFOA's Ex. Dir. His unique talents coupled with boundless energy found instant challenges to pique a sincere desire to expand his personal interest in forestry. Soon after membership, in 1986, he helped found the WFL chapter, which today is the largest chapter in NYFOA. With untiring enthusiasm he began to make changes that greatly enhanced the exposure of NYFOA. He traveled widely and often, developing good relationships with other organizations, associations, governmental agencies, and academia. His expertise in computer data base management was of significant value to NYFOA. His leadership has vastly broadened NYFOA's horizons and increased membership dramatically. Here was a dynamo of ideas, enthusiasm, vision, and great ability. Eloquent, determined, and knowledgeable, he has been successful from day one in advancing NYFOA's influence and involvement in education and stewardship. It has been a true pleasure to have been associated with both Marchants these past 5 1/2 years."

Dan McGough, nyforestsONLINE: "John is a tremendous guy. One word comes to mind instantly when I think of John, "selflessness". He extends himself fully to anyone who needs a hand. He's a very competent, very professional representative for any cause, with the ability to immerse himself totally in any project. A friend, a true friend. Someone I am very happy and proud to call my friend."

Eileen Van Wie, WFL Chapter Chair: "John, your thoughtfulness has been more appreciated than you know. When I agreed to be the WFL chairperson, I had no idea what was involved with the position, there had not been a chair for 7 months, which meant there was no predecessor to ask what was expected of me. I received a phone call from you inviting me to have coffee with you. You offered me direction, information, and ideas for the chapter. I'm still unorganized after two years; but have always remembered your help when you spent those four hours with me, (It was really only one hour, Helen!). Thank you, John."

Keith Argow, National Woodland Owners Association President: "When I think of John, he's the only person I know who has a paper roof on his barn. Because he's a working woodland owner, he: grows his own timber, mills his own timber, builds with his own timber *and* looks for innovative products made from wood. He found the paper roofing and gave it a try. That sets the tone in dealing with this retired researcher and able administrator with a life

time of accomplishments. He is a "can-do" organizer. Thinking of John always brings a smile to me because you know with John you will always get a thoughtful and positive response. He is a delight to work with; I feel proud and privileged to have his counsel as Northeastern Regional VicePresident for NWO."

Stuart McCarty, NYFOA past President, "John is a genius to my way of thinking. He is effective, gets things done. He is articulate, speaks and writes clearly. He is dedicated, a hard worker. He was too valuable as our Ex. Dir. even to consider "letting" him retire to putter in his woodlot, his dream of what to do after leaving a demanding job at Kodak. Consequently, I made it one of my priorities, the most important one, to do all I could to retain John and to relieve him of the duties that either bored or distracted him from more interesting NYFOA related activities. Both Don Wagner and I succeeded and must now grant that John has more than earned the right to devote more time to his woods. Good Luck, John!"

Mary McCarty, NYFOA past President: "First a letter from a recently retired Kodak-person asking about forming a chapter - a questionnaire, number of acres, commitment, meeting-date possibilities. Then a phone call. Could we meet him at the mall to take him to the annual meeting in Syracuse? Make of car? How do we recognize each other? Off we went. How do you pronounce Marchant? **The rest is history.** We met numerous times and the WFL was off and running. Meanwhile we got to know each other; our lifestyles and patterns. That's what makes friendships. A 7:45 AM call is either the kids or John, who has been up since 4:30 patiently waiting to share the latest developments of the chapter or the big picture of the needs of NYFOA. Stuart and John became a team; and I was a happy part of the conversations in our breakfast room. We got to know Helen and Debbie with visits to the Marchants. Friends - yes. One of the reasons to be thankful for NYFOA. Helen and John, enjoy the new freedom!"

Charlie Mowatt, NYS DEC Associate Forester, retired: "Last winter I was suffering from a severe case of cabin fever complicated by a compound fracture of some long term forestry relationships and further debilitation from a rash of hateful rhetoric in the news. John recognized the symptoms and made a house call; rather, a phone call. I shall be forever grateful for the care John exhibited by calling. He listened while I babbled on about my disenchantment with some of the forestry players and my concern for the rise in hate in this country. I



Bob Sand (r) presents Heiberg Award to John accompanied by standing ovation.

wish I could find some meaningful way to oppose the hate. Here, I had to pause for breath. John took the opportunity to offer just six words that immediately broke the fever and offered a prescription for eradication of many maladies. Softly, and most earnestly, he said, "You have to follow your heart."

Bill Miner, NYFOA President, "He's so gracious, ready to listen to ideas, imparts enthusiasm in people, motivates them. His warmth; what a friend! Like you've known him forever even though you haven't. His great leadership; the personal skills for working with people. I'm sorry he won't be with us, his work would have continued to carry us forward."

There are some of the things a few people had to say about John. Helen said John will kill me when he reads this. He really hates tributes. What would I say about John? Ditto to all of the above. Still after attending Board Meetings for a year I began to expect all this of John. It is just what he *does!* The unexpected bonus for me was John's deep love and appreciation for nature. He doesn't look at forests as just potential profits. This man can look at a distant forest in the spring and see a thousand shades of green. He is as excited as a child at having bluebird fledglings in a nest box on his property. He can wax poetic about the flight of a Marsh Hawk. He notes, with total appreciation, a solitary painted trillium, the drifts of Dame's Rocket at every forest edge, the burgeoning life in his pond each spring. A sleet storm turns his forest into acres of diamonds and John is as astonished as if they were real



John receives Special Recognition Award from Keith Argow, President of National Woodland Owners Association.

Photo by Eric Johnson

diamonds...and as pleased. I didn't expect this of this able administrator, this very correct Executive Director.

He gave NYFOA more than years of his time and effort. He motivated so many of us by his kindness and enthusiasm. Simply by listening to us. John really listens; he makes you think you have the best idea in the world. He makes us all strive to excel. Thank you, John.

My apologies to the legions of you who would have liked to add to this tribute. You could drop him a line or phone him, or we could do a whole issue on all that John means to each of us.

Maybe then I'd be at the head of a very long line of folks that John has to kill!

Betty Densmore is Chairperson of NYFOA's Editorial Committee.

STREAM CORRIDORS

By Homer E. Stennett

Flowing Streams

As Nature made them, flowing streams are one of the most beautiful and rewarding parts of our environment.

As men used them, flowing streams often became ugly and damaging to the environment.

Long ago we learned how to correct the damage men had done to streams. Examples tell the story....

DAVIS BROOK

Davis Brook flows westward in Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties near Jamestown. The stream once meandered down the valley but was straightened to accommodate the road that runs beside it. The stream struck back and regularly un-



dercut the road; and much work was done by the highway department to protect it. The stream was part of the adjoining pasture and the cows found the most succu-

lent food near the water. They ate it off regularly. Then in 1955, William Shields, the farmer, and his son, Richard, built a new fence so that the cows could no longer enter the creek except for a 50 foot-wide crossing where the cows could also get water. Basket Willow shrubs provided by the Nursery Division of the NYS Conservation Department (currently NYS DEC) were planted.

Picture D shows the condition of the creek as it was in 1955 and a troop of Boy Scouts and their leader as they prepared to plant Basket Willow shrubs. At the same time Bill Shields and his son were building a fence above the high bank, Mrs. Shields was preparing a lunch for the scouts and



dercut the road; and much work was done by the highway department to protect it. The stream was part of the adjoining pasture and the cows found the most succu-



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other workers. **Picture E** was taken in 1994, 39 years after the first picture with the camera pointed directly toward where the boys had stood. All the area is fully vegetated.

Picture G taken in 1955 was a high bank that regularly washed out at the toe causing large amounts of soil to slide into the stream to be carried down stream to the Mississippi River. After the stream was protected from grazing, some bulldozer work was done to move the stream away from the high bank and Basket Willow shrubs were planted. At that time Crown Vetch now common on road banks was not known in New York. A handful of Crown Vetch seed was available; therefore, on the top of the high bank at about 25 foot intervals, a small amount of sod was removed and a few seeds were planted. The idea was



ture and the condition of the stream was caused by cattle grazing off all protective vegetation. **Picture J** was taken in 1994, 39 years after the first picture. Pasturing of the stream was stopped about 1965. The stream reestablished its own channel; and all of the vegetation is volunteer from plants and seeds that came with the water and lodged on the banks. There was evidence that shortly before the picture was taken, water five foot deep flowed. It caused no damage.

Many miles of streams in New York, once terrible eyesores, are now beautiful and productive: lots of them because farms were abandoned and no longer pastured; many others because the farm owners made a conscious effort to improve them. Everybody who loves the out of doors, benefits.

that as the Vetch grew and hung over the bank, it would drop seeds, germinate, and protect the bank. It worked and Crown Vetch helped to stabilize the bank.

Picture H, taken in 1994, is looking directly at the high bank, now completely vegetated. The whole length of the stream is now fully protected. Many high waters have flowed down the stream in recent years without causing any damage. It has been many years since the highway department had to do any work to protect the road.

COLDSRING CREEK

Coldspring Creek is in Cattaraugus County, about ten miles south of Salamanca. The stream is located on the reservation of the Seneca Indian Nation. It flows through a terminal moraine made by the Wisconsin Glacier. In it are many rounded boulders, some of them granite which were brought from the Laurentide



Mountains remote in Canada.

Picture I was taken of the stream in 1955. This reach of the stream was in pas-

Homer Stennett, a resident of Jamestown, is retired after 39 years employed by the US Soil Conservation Service.

AMBROSIA BEETLES - a study in symbiosis

By Douglas Allen

These insects have garnered much attention from entomologists world wide because of their economic significance and fascinating life style. They are a small group within the "true" bark beetle family (see April/May, 1994 issue) but are characterized by a feeding behavior that differs markedly from their relatives. Attacks by ambrosia beetles do no structural damage to logs or lumber, but their activity results in significant degrade if the landowner's goal is to produce a wood product.

Ecological Role

Ordinarily, ambrosia beetle activity goes unnoticed in forests where it plays an important biological role in the early stages of nutrient cycling. Attacks usually are associated with freshly cut or windblown trees and standing trees that are severely stressed or that have been killed recently by other agents. Their galleries provide openings for microorganisms and moisture that, together, accelerate decomposition. Only a few species attack vigorous trees.

Signs and Symptoms

The reddish brown to black adults are less than 3/16" long. Upon locating a suitable host, they bore directly into the wood and produce very fine, dust-like wood chips that are swept out of the tunnel. These borings match the color of the sapwood, usually very light brown to bright white. The boring dust accumulates in bark crev-



Fig. 1. Accumulations of white boring dust on a maple log infested by ambrosia beetles.

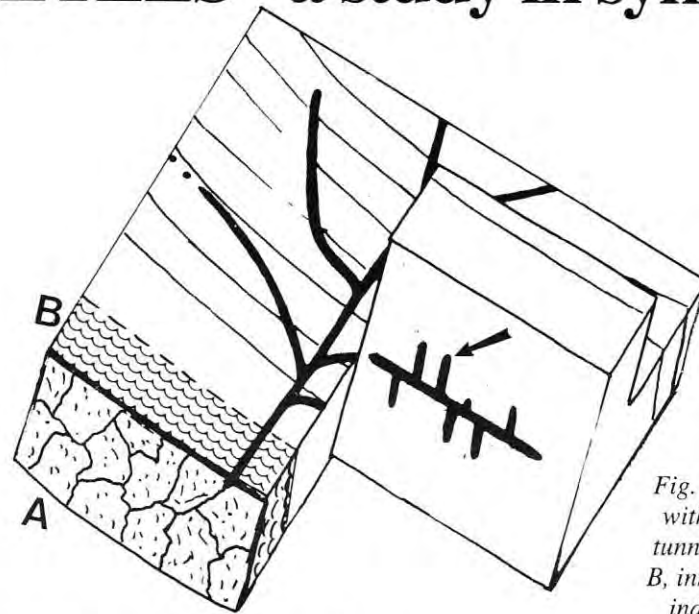


Fig. 2 A block of wood with ambrosia beetle tunnels: A, outer bark; B, inner bark; "cradle" indicated by arrow.

ices (Fig. 1) beneath the entrance hole, at the base of an infested tree or under infested logs. The beetles excavate an intricate network of tunnels (Fig. 2) a few to several inches into the sapwood, in some cases even reaching the heartwood. Tunnel diameter varies from 1/32" to 1/8", depending on the species of ambrosia beetle. The small size of the tunnel is reflected in another common name for this group, "pinworm". A black stain is associated with the tunnel wall and adjacent wood.

Many people encounter evidence of ambrosia beetles while splitting firewood. The small holes, stain and network of galleries are especially common in birch, maple and oak.

Biology

In contrast to true bark beetles that live and feed only in a narrow zone just under the bark (Fig. 2,B) (hence, the common names "bark beetles" or "inner bark borers"), ambrosia beetles do not eat woody material and spend no time beneath bark. They provide for their own nutrition by feeding on a fungus that flourishes within the galleries. These "fungus gardens" originate from spores that female beetles carry with them in special pocket-like structures associated with their exoskeleton or "skin". The inoculum is passed from one beetle generation to the next. Both larvae and adults feed on this "ambrosia". The fungus is responsible for the black stain that accompanies each tunnel. Some ambrosia beetles deposit eggs directly in the tunnel, others excavate short galleries, called "cradles" (Fig. 2), along the sides of the main gallery. Fungal spores are extruded into each cradle and (or) tunnel. By the time eggs hatch there is plenty of **mycelium** (my-seal-ium), a mat of thread-like tubes that constitute the vegetative structure of the fungus, to nourish both adults and developing larvae.

Hosts and Susceptibility

Many species of conifers and broadleaved trees are subject to infestations by at least one species of ambrosia beetle. Host material is only susceptible as long as the amount of moisture in the wood exceeds the fiber saturation point; that is, a moisture content of approximately 30% or more. Below this point there is no free water in the wood cells and any water that exists in the wood is chemically bound to cell walls.

JUL/AUG 1995

Firewood Was The Answer

By Don Steger

Cutting firewood began at Cold Brook Farm in 1956 when we installed a woodburning furnace in our old farmhouse. I soon found a market for fireplace wood and produced about 100 face cord a year in spare time from work on our game farm and hunting preserve.

Our 1,100 acre farm consists of approximately 800 acres of woodland. Of that, 200 acres had always been woodland and 600 acres have since reverted to woodland after cultivation. It soon became apparent to me that in our woodland were trees of poor form, some low quality species, and areas where the trees were just growing too thick.

Cutting firewood was the answer for me. Because of the demands of the game farm, time did not permit me to turn all the culls and thinning into firewood. Much was left in the woods where it was cut.

In 1981 my wife and I retired, she from teaching and I from operating the game farm. We purchased a wheel skidder and woodsplitter; and I started working in the woods full time. The energy crisis was here and firewood was in demand. After cutting and splitting all spring and early summer, in the fall of 1981 I had 500 face cord all stacked, dry, and ready for marketing.

I cut only the harder woods for sale, no basswood, poplar, or tulip. Rot is split out and larger knots are excluded. My split wood is stacked off the ground in individual stacks and at least as far apart as the length of the wood, with the bark side facing up. Why? Bark holds the moisture in the wood, green and after it is cut. With the bark side up the moisture will drain out faster. The wood storage area should have good air movement and as much direct sunlight as possible. Our customers expect a dry uniform product year after year and this is what we supply. If even drier wood is wanted, it should be kept inside where the relative humidity is usually lower and constant.

Trees can be cut when the leaves are out and can be left until the leaves are dry and brittle. This removes about half of the moisture. This is a good plan for weekend cutters, saving them some drying time.

We now heat our 100-year-old home with a woodburning boiler in an adjacent building. In the boiler we burn odd-sized pieces, knotty wood, some rot, and some softer woods.

Everyone has something they do well. I can stack wood. Neat stacks of firewood drying in the summer sun gives me a feeling of unparalleled satisfaction, except perhaps for the sound of a tom turkey gobbling in the spring woods. [see page 2]

The commercial firewood cutter should live by a simple rule: make a good product and deal fairly with his customers.

Don served as chairman of the NYS Region 7 Forest Practice Board for over ten years; a past recipient of the NYS Outstanding Tree Farmer Award, his Tree Farm is located in Cortland County.



Fig. 3. Ambrosia beetle damage to yellow birch veneer. Actual dia. of each hole is 1 mm (.04 inches).

Ambrosia beetle attacks are especially common in freshly cut logs that are left in the woods and (or) retained on a shaded log deck for several weeks. Under these conditions, damage is most severe to logs cut in spring and early summer, a time when adults are most active.

Economic Significance

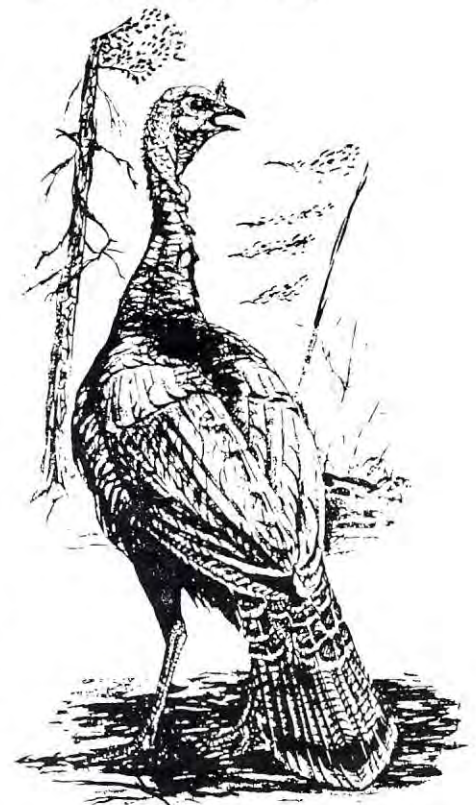
Commercial loss to ambrosia beetle activity occurs in the form of degrade associated with the presence of dark-stained pin holes in lumber or veneer processed from infested logs (Fig. 3). This loss is especially important, because the damage occurs in the sapwood where the most valuable clear lumber or veneer should be found.

Prevention

The best way to prevent damage is to process logs quickly. Minimize the availability of susceptible logs (i.e., freshly cut, above fiber saturation) during periods of beetle flight, usually in the spring and early summer. Even logs decked adjacent to a woodland may be invaded. So, most especially in the spring, process logs quickly. As long as the moisture content of the wood remains high enough, the sap within will ferment and emit chemical odors that greatly facilitates the insect's ability to locate a suitable log. Any log that is producing light colored "dust" should be suspect and quickly processed.

This is the 21st in the series of articles contributed by Dr. Allen, Professor of Forest Entomology at SUNY/ESF.

NY FOREST OWNER



(Graphic from "Wild in New York" - Vol. 2, No. 3 1994)



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ON GUYS AND DOLLS

By Jane Sorensen Lord, PhD, OTR, ND

"Having a senior moment?", my mom asked Gordon, my husband, when he forgot what he was talking about in mid-sentence.

"Didn't you take your Ginkgo?"

"There's a huge Ginkgo in the middle of campus; should I collect the leaves and make my own?", my brother wants to know. The manager of information systems at Indiana University, he takes it to keep sharp for his cyberspace work.

My mom started to take Ginkgo six years ago, when she was 75. She had started getting dizzy when she rose too fast and "spacey" at unexpected moments. After a full neurological work-up, including a CT scan, her doctor told her nothing was wrong; she was experiencing the normal aging process.

Ginkgo is widely used and has been well researched in Europe.

It is prescribed to increase blood flow to the brain and body, for macular degeneration (the leading cause of adult blind-

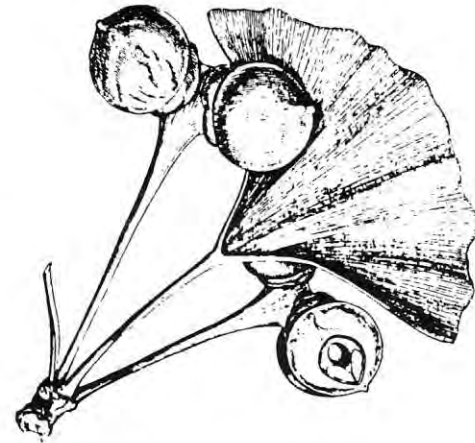
ness), Alzheimer's, high blood pressure, cochlear deafness AND vertigo (chronic dizziness).

I gave mom her first bottle of extract and told her to look up Ginkgo the next time she went to the library. She went the next day and immediately started taking 20 drops in the morning and evening. Within 6 weeks her dizziness cleared and she began to feel a sense of "well-being, not up or high, just good and comfortable". She has taken it ever since and has introduced friends to it. She buys ginkgo by the dozen, but swears she's not pushing it.

When I learned as a child, that Ginkgo was the oldest surviving tree on earth, we fondly nicknamed the tree the "Dinosaur Tree". I can also remember picking the leaves to use as dolls' fans. They worked fresh or pressed.

Native to the Orient, it is described in the oldest Chinese herbal, *Pen Tsao Ching*. And in India's traditional Ayurvedic medicine, Ginkgo is used in a longevity elixir. The trees were introduced in the West in 1730; but, according to Michael Castleman's, *The Healing Herbs*, they were ignored by European herbalists. However, the trees grace streets and parks throughout Europe, indeed the whole temperate world. The biggest I've ever seen is at the Vanderbilt Manor in Hyde Park on the Hudson. There is also an old one on the grounds of the former Havemeyer Estate in Greenwich, CT.

There are a great many in New York City, easily discernable from the Lindens, Sycamores, Kentucky Coffee Beans, and Honeysuckle Locusts, because of the Ginkgo's nifty leaves; but also, because their leaves seem to pop out, not gradually emerge, in the spring. One day you walk by a bunch and they look like winter, then



Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*)

Bingo!, a few days later, the leaves are full out.

I planted ten on my Tree Farm so I could make my own tincture. (Fill a quart jar 3/4 full of cut-up leaves that have just begun to turn yellow in the fall and cover with as-high-a-proof Vodka you can buy. It turns a deep shade of green in a few weeks and is then ready for 1/2 tablespoon doses.) I probably bought trees too young for rigorous Tree Farm life, because I had a 90% mortality after two years. This year I will fertilize and water the remaining survivor, in the hopes it will make it to 4 feet by the end of summer and grow enough leaves to make a quart.

About a month ago Dick Fox told me that someone asked him to ask me about taking Ginseng, a plant that is getting a lot of play by forest owners. It's a good tonic herb that supports the immune system (and which is believed to be a sexual stimulant for men - no research though). I felt like saying, take Ginkgo, it's better for your brain.

Mom says to be sure to let you know that Ginkgo works slowly, not like an aspirin for a headache. "Give it a chance to work and you'll soon notice that your fuzziness goes away, that you will feel clearer, and you will have a sense of well-being."

And the leaves really do make great dolls' fans.

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 NYS Tree Farm Committee.



Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*)

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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.

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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.

WOODLOT CALENDAR

Jul 9: CDC; 2 PM; Woodscanoe; Hudson River & Rams Horn Creek w/picnic; M. Greason; (518)943-9230

Jul 27: 4 day FOREST STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOP; Paul Smiths College; Herb Boyce; (518)946-7040

Aug 5: CDC; 10AM; Herbal Meds. & Wildflowers w/Jane Lord; Jill & Barry Cornell

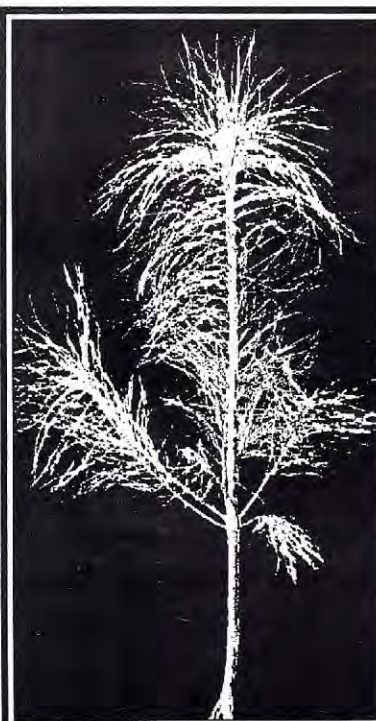
Aug 18: 6:45PM; FOREST SEMINAR; Adirondack High School; Boonville

Oct 20: CDC; 1PM; W.J. Cowes Mill; Berlin; M. Greason; (518) 943-9230

Sep 30: 2 day **NYFOA FALL MEETING**; Hemlock Lake; Eileen Van Wie; (716)367-2849 eve.

Coming Issues—NY Forest Owner Forest Soils

- By Edwin White, SUNY/ESF
Corridor Management
By Larry Abrahamson, SUNY/ESF
**Useful Ecological Concepts
for Regrown Forests**
By Norman Richards, SUNY/ESF
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