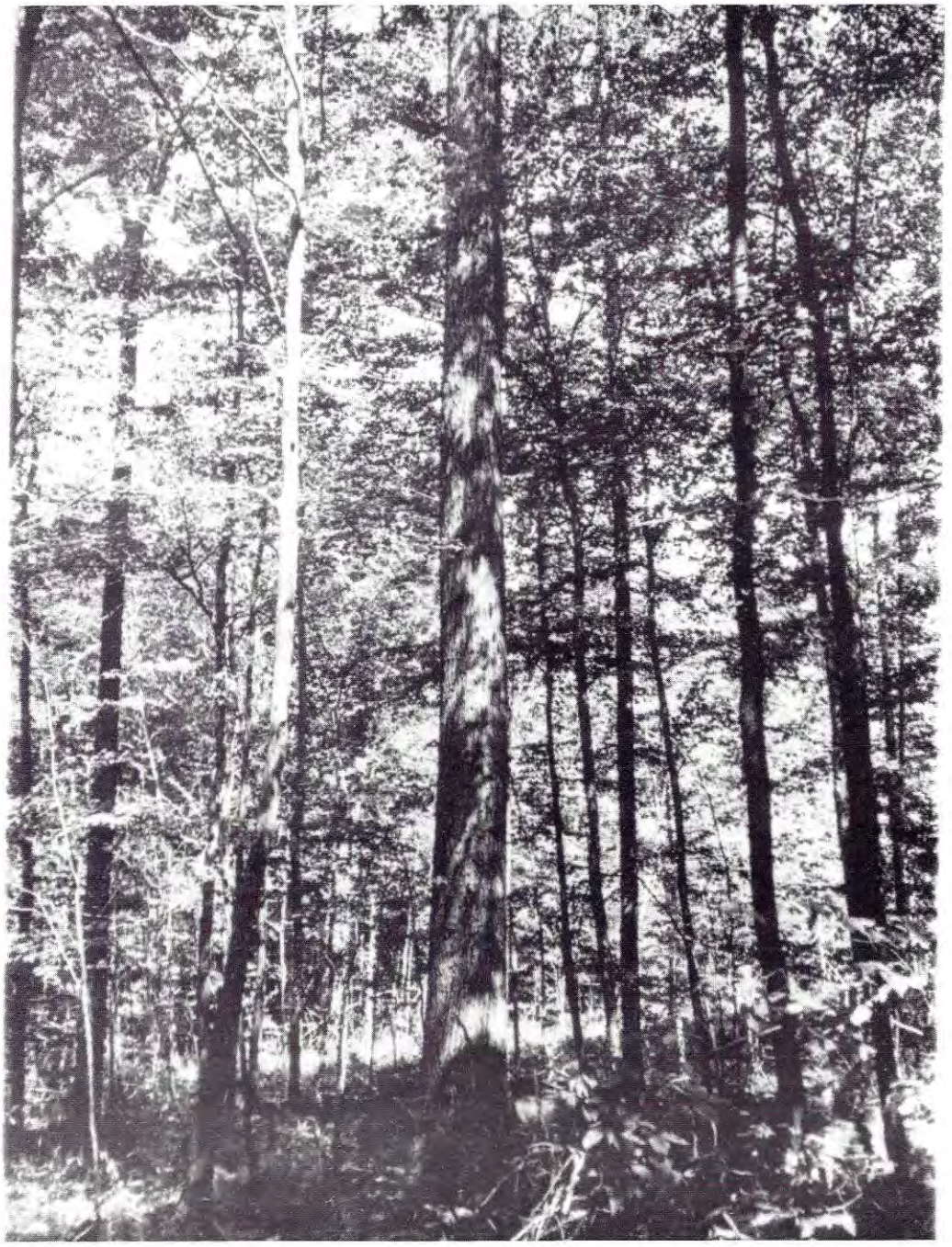
The New York

FOREST OWNER

A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association

September/October 1995



OUR REGROWN FORESTS

THE NEW YORK
FOREST OWNER
VOL. 33, NO. 5

COVER: 95 year old, 28 inch red oak in regrown pasture in Catskills.

FOREST OWNER

A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association
Editorial Committee: Betty Densmore, Alan Knight, Jim Minor, Bob Sand, and Eileen VanWie.
Materials submitted for publication should be addressed to: R. Fox, Editor, R.D. #3, Box 88, Moravia, New York 13118. Articles, artwork and photos are invited and are normally returned after use. The deadline for submission for Nov/Dec is Oct 1.
Please address all membership fees and change of address requests to P.O. Box 180, Fairport, N.Y. 14450. Cost of individual membership subscription is $20.

Regrown Forests

Towards the Taxes. (see page 4)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

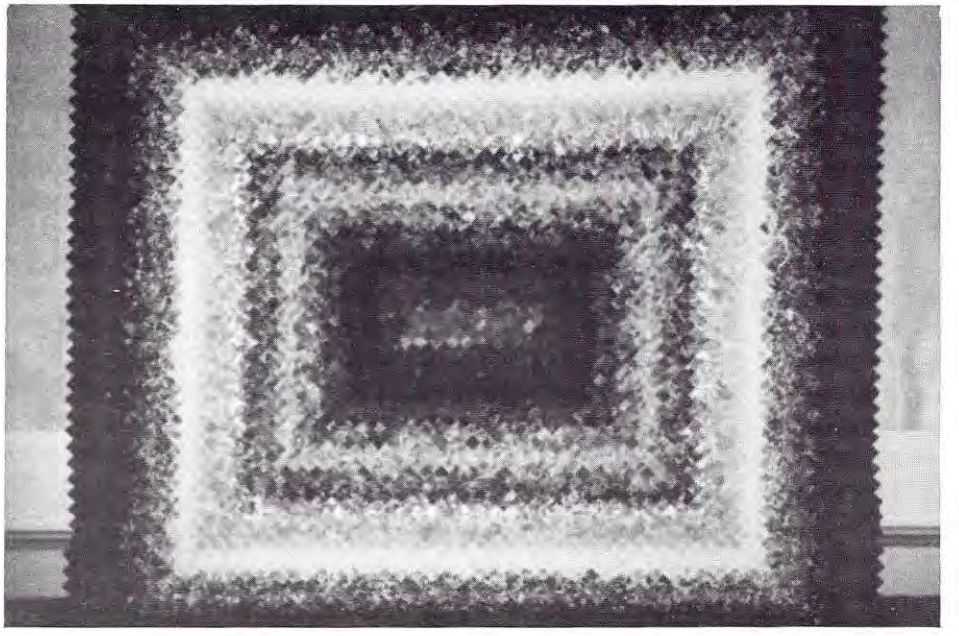
By Bill Minerd

If ever the word optimist can be more appropriately applied, it is to describe a person who plants a tree or cares for forest lands. This is a person who has a positive plan for the future, the results of which may never be realized in his or her lifetime. The continuity of a management plan is enhanced when successive generations of owners perpetuate the values and objectives of the previous stewards. This is most evident in tree farms and forest lands that are owned by families. Many of us have visited or seen slides of forest lands owned by the Childses, Levatichs, Hamiltons, and Hudsons. When visiting these properties, the years invested in caring for these lands is most evident. You will see beautiful stands of crop trees, ponds, trails and improved wildlife habitat. You will also develop a sense of history and tradition from these families and share their visions of the future, a future that they witness through their children's eyes.

My wife, Clara, will represent the third generation at the Gurnee Woods in Elbridge, NY. She can look back to her grandfather, Ross Cady who first purchased the land in the 1930's, and to her mother and father who were the next stewards. With a 50 year family history behind her, she can look to the future, to her time to continue the family tradition. My salute to these families, and I am sure many others in our NYFOA family. The photo of Vern and Marj Hudson and Clara and me, represent the second and third generations at the 280 acre Gurnee Woods in Elbridge.

I hope by now chapter members throughout the state have received their raffle tickets for the NYFOA quilt. As you are aware, this is the first membership-wide fund raising activity that we have attempted. Betty Wagner has graciously donated her time and money to produce a true work of art. It was her desire that this raffle would raise about $6000 plus dollars that would be used to defray the major costs in applying for 501(c)3 charitable not-for-profit status for our organization. If this can be achieved, little if any of our membership dues money will be required to attain this goal. A small investment by each of us today will yield a many fold return in the future. It is my fervent hope that our goal will be achieved and Betty Wagner will not be disappointed in the effort we put into this project.

Clara & Bill Minerd (l), Marge & Vern Hudson.



The quilt, "Adirondack Beauty"

A few days after the June Board of Directors meeting, I received a call from a member (who wishes to remain anonymous) who donated $375 to be used as prize money for the chapter or affiliate that sells the most raffle tickets. Prize money will be awarded as follows:

First Prize:	$250
(must sell 500 or more tickets)	
Second Prize:	$100
Third Prize:	$ 50
Fourth Prize:	$ 25

What an incentive to raise some funds for your Chapter or Affiliate! Moreover, what an opportunity for all members of NYFOA to work toward a collective goal.

USEFUL ECOLOGICAL CONCEPTS FOR OUR REGROWN FORESTS

By Norman Richards

Ecology, as the study of inter-relationships of organisms and their environment, is a long-standing "folk" activity. The early hunter who learned that certain animals were in particular habitats at certain times of the year, and the New York forest owner wondering why there is cherry regeneration in one area of a woodlot but not in another area, are both students of "folk ecology" -- learning about interactions by observing their workings around us.

Formal scientific study under the name of ecology began in the 1800's and has accelerated through this century along with most other scientific endeavor. As a student of both formal science and folk ecology, I think the basic mental process is similar. Interactions of organisms and their environment typically are multi-factor, multi-pathway processes that are beyond are full understanding. Ecological study is less about learning facts than it is developing tentative ideas or concepts that we can test by further observations. When new observations don't fit our concepts we need to revise them. So whether folk study or formal science, ecology should be concerned with learning to use increasingly complex information and ideas about organism/environment interactions.

Ecology is always from a human view, and its concepts are shaped by what the viewer sees and believes. The differing ecological concepts arise from the diversity of viewers' experiences and beliefs. However, we must keep ecological study as objective as we can, and then introduce our values, what we believe in, when we debate actions to be taken.

In recent decades, ecology as continuing study toward understanding more complex interactions has been overshadowed by a popularized ecology as advocacy of ideas people believe in and want to promote politically. Ecological concepts promoted broadly as tenets are necessarily general, and tend to be simplistic as they polarize towards various mind-sets; such as, use vs. preservation, maintaining conscious human involvement in ecological processes vs. reducing it. When ecological concepts become political as the basis for official group positions, they lose their values for continuing study and learning.

The premise of this article is that our regrown forests are a valuable laboratory for both folk ecologists and scientists to critically examine ecological concepts that have become tenets polarizing peoples' views about forests. Our forest which has regrown repeatedly in different forms in different times and places reflecting a variety of interacting elements, emphasizes the need for useful ecological concepts to be dynamic and continuously challenging our understanding. As such, they are unlikely to provide easy answers to support whatever are our favored beliefs about nature and our relationships to it.

Balance Of Nature?

Probably one of the most value-loaded, and therefore troublesome, popular ecological tenets is that of "balance of nature" in its various forms. While this is widely attractive as a human value, there is much evidence that natural balances are quite fleeting and that many levels of imbalances or "disequilibria" create the dynamics of the world; whether impacting birth, growth and death of individuals or populations, development and changes in communities, or changes in their physical or chemical environments.

When ecological concepts become political as the basis for official group positions, they lose their values for continuing study and learning.

Assuming that FOREST OWNER readers are familiar to varying degrees with the regrown forests of New York, I will review them here as a history of "disequilibrium dynamics". We will pass quickly over globally imbalanced stress that raise mountains and the weather that erodes them into sinking seas to form sedimentary rocks that rise and repeat the processes somewhat differently each time; or the stresses that changing climates have produced on the development and losses of the diversity of plant and animal populations over many millennia. Instead we will focus on quite recent time since the last glaciation receded from most of New York about 12,000 years ago leaving a landscape of largely barren soil parent material and devoid of plant and animal life. Nearly all our so-called "native" plants and animals were "reintroduced" within this recent post-glacial period. However, conditions were also different, especially drier, in lower latitudes during glacial periods, population diversity suffered there also. This left a poorer biota to selectively repopulate post-glacial areas.

There is also much evidence that regrowth of forest in New York has not been a smooth progression since the glaciers. Over the last 10,000 years, there have been a few significant warm, dry periods that favored pine and oaks, and probably increased fire, and a few "little ice ages" favoring revival of spruce and other boreal plants. A current apparent warming trend after the last cold period in the 1800's confounds testing of theories of culturally-induced global warming.

Human activity entering the region soon after glaciers left, may have contributed to extinction of some animals, and probably increased fire effects in the landscape. Later"Native American" immigrants introduced some new plant species and probably also impacted animal populations in their agriculture and agro-forestry activities. Obviously the most massive landscape change since post-glacial forest regrowth came to New York in the last few centuries with European-form agriculture and urban settlement. Most arable land was cleared for farming, many wetlands drained, and rough and steep lands left in woodlots selectively cut for fuel and timber and often grazed. Mountainous areas were cutover for marketable timber; in many places followed by wildfire. it is important to remember that while the forests provided valuable products, they also stood in the way of "progress" in the 18th and early 19th centuries in New York. The 1855 New York Census of Agriculture listed all remaining woods and wetlands as "unimproved" land.

Thanks to remaining woods areas, we apparently lost no tree species from New York directly due to agricultural expansion, although some trees were locally depleted, especially conifers in our predominantly

hardwood forests. But a few important species such as our chestnut have been nearly wiped out by introduced diseases or insects. Some "native" shrubs and herbaceous species of rare habitats have been lost or endangered, while the ranges of more species were reduced by agricultural impacts. But a great many more plant species have naturalized after deliberate or accidental introductions.

On the whole, our modest post-glacial plant diversity has been significantly enriched over time if all times and means of introduction and naturalization are counted. However, forest animal populations suffered more, apparently due to greater sensitivity to habitat changes as well as greater population depletion directly by people.

As is widely known, with intensifying agriculture on the better lands, and manufacture and service work largely replacing agrarian livelihoods, farming ceased on most poorer lands; the changes allowed tree cover to return variably in response to local seed sources and land conditions. Removal of pasturing and replacement of wood fuel by fossil and other energy sources allowed more regrowth in remaining woodlands. Coincident with this were developing conservation concerns that closed some forests to further harvests, made concerted efforts to control forest fires, passed game laws that helped revive some depleted animal populations, and promoted planting of trees to accelerate reforestation of open areas.

The regrown forests of New York have attracted increased markets - for hardwood pulp and other products from plentiful supplies of young timber, and for valuable sawtimber from trees growing to larger sizes- in an international resource context in which changing timber and petroleum supplies and demand elsewhere in the world shift pressures on our forests. Meanwhile the regrown forests continue to be hit sporadically by windstorms and insect and disease epidemics, and tree regeneration often is reduced by revived animal populations.

Overall, the fragmented remaining woods have been reconsolidated to more continuous forest cover over most of the state. In some areas, recreational pressures have intensified and regrown forests are being parceled into tree covered building lots that otherwise have lost qualities of more extensive forests. In the range between the consolidations and subdivisions is a great diversity of forest owners engaged in their varied management objectives.

Regrown forest in the Adirondacks: Cut over and burned, returned to aspen and birch. Cut but not burned, returned to spruce and fir.

The many natural and cultural disequilibrium processes continuing to impact our regrown forests are not random, and are affected by geologic and topographic landscape variation that shaped previous natural diversity patterns. If all sources of imbalances are considered, our regrown forests may well have more landscape-scale diversity and complex dynamics than at any previously known time.

Disequilibrium Concepts: *Homeorhesis*

This brief review of dynamic aspects of our regrown forests doesn't leave much support for "balance of nature" concepts. Instead, it suggests that concepts that embrace disequilibria at various scales are more useful overall, within which balances that may be treasured human values can be identified as relatively temporary conditions. The long-popular concept of communities or other organism groups responding to disturbances by recovering toward their pre-disturbance state in a dynamic equilibrium or *homeostasis* is only rarely observed. A more generally observable concept, as suggested by our regrown forests, is that recovery after disturbance is toward pathways or "currents" of larger scale recovery or change - *homeorhesis*; consequently, the recovery state is likely to be different from the pre-disturbance state. For example, responses to partial cutting of a forest stand can be affected by ongoing responses to previous disturbances, and by changing successional processes reflecting longer term changes in genetic pools, soil conditions or climate constraints. From this view, "balance" is an unusual observance for time periods and places where large scale currents appear relatively flat.

The more dynamic concept of homeorhesis challenges technical definition of popular ecology terms such as "stability", "sustainability", "ecosystem integrity or health" now in political arenas. As these terms depend on particular time and space perspectives for their definition, they are all based on peoples' values rather than on concrete biological definition. Because ecological study and discussion is from very partial human views, we always must define our ecological concerns in three dimensions: What groups of organisms are being studied or discussed, over what space range and what time span?

Homeostasis vs. Homeorhesis?

Populations, Communities, And Ecosystems

Three general groupings of organisms are commonly used in ecological study: populations, communities, and ecosystems. As these groupings often are confused in popular ecology, it seems useful to briefly distinguish them here. A population is any grouping of genetically similar organisms identified on the basis of our concerns. 'Species' is the most common grouping for which we characterize ecological information; such as, site requirements of tree species or habitat preferences of animal species. But individuals in a species vary over time and their spatial range, so there is increasing interest in finer genetic groupings, both in natural variation and in "biotechnology".

Communities are functionally related groupings of organisms that are similar

enough to be described by similar means, but not necessarily closely related genetically. For example, we can describe a mixed species tree community in a Northern Hardwood forest in terms of seedling-overstory relationships, and also the bird community there. But birds and trees are too different to be included in one community; so it is more useful to describe the bird community in its own terms and then inter-relate the bird and tree communities.

An ecosystem is a grouping of organisms in populations or communities along with their significant living and non- living environmental elements within space and time frames defined by the concerns at hand. Ecosystem units are most useful for considering interactions of organism groups with their environment; for example, a northern hardwood tree stand responding to a heavy windstorm, to fertilization, or to changed deer hunting regulations, over a few years or several decades. As with populations and communities, ecosystems always must be defined in terms of space and time frames and the groups of organisms considered to the concerns at hand. Without such definition, reference to THE ecosystem makes no sense.

A very useful concept is that of *nested* ecosystems to examine complex, multi-scale questions. For example, a resource management question may require understanding of a tree seedling micro-environment within forest stands, stand composition and structure interactions within forest properties, and property management interactions in a landscape or region. This is most usefully examined as at least three different ecosystem units or models, each defined to address one level of the question, and each feeding information to the other levels in seeking a solution to the overall question. The larger scale ecosystem units examine broader questions, but are not necessarily any more comprehensive or "holistic" than the smaller scale units examining finer detail questions. This is a common confusion in now politically popular "ecosystem management" concepts, but further discussion of this must be left to another time.

"Incorporation"

A valuable ecological concept relating to space and time scales of communities or ecosystems is that of "incorporation" of small scale disruptions or "disasters" into larger scale "normal dynamics". For example, the July 15, '95 windstorm hitting

*Scotch pine about 80 years old in Wawbeek Plantations in the Adirondacks.**

parts of the Adirondacks caused the most forest stand destruction in some areas since the 1950 blowdown. This was a disaster with several years potential impacts for some individual stand owners. But at the scale of the Forest Preserve it was valuable in diversifying regrown forest cover by creating new forest gaps, windthrow mounds, and broken snags and downed wood characteristic of old growth forests.

Some implications of incorporation are that long-term "stability" or "sustainability" may be very uncertain at small scales such as forest stands, but much more easily maintained at larger scales such as landscapes or regions. A corollary is that a particular landscape or regional pattern may result from various factors and processes at smaller scales; so a desired large scale pattern is unlikely to be achieved by miniaturizing the pattern at smaller scales - a lesson for top-down regional planning. For example, landscape level forest diversity would not be achieved by smaller scale diversity in every forest stand, but rather by different things occurring among forest stands and properties.

Analytic And Synthetic Ecology

Finally, I want to tie back with our regrown forests by examining two common approaches to ecological study from the perspective of disequilibrium concepts.

A. The traditional scientific approach to ecology has been "analytic" in the sense of mentally breaking down complex communities or ecosystems to try to understand interactions among simpler parts. Historically, this has focused on "relatively undisturbed" or "late stage" communities identified as models against which relationships in more disturbed communities can be compared. However, people's values can readily come in to view "relatively undisturbed" communities as "ideals" against which other communities are judged as to their desirability or integrity.. From the review of our regrown forests, it is evident that the question of what "relatively undisturbed" model to choose among the many levels of "disequilibrium dynamics" over time and space is a problem and depends more on one's viewpoint than any inherent scientific criteria.

Looking more broadly, I see all forests of the world as "regrown forests" to varying degrees, and therefore value-based identification of "relatively undisturbed" forest models is a source of conflict in many polarized controversies such as currently in

**An experiment about 1908-10 by B.E. Fernow, Director of the Cornell School of Forestry. Clearing the cutover stands, burning the slash, and planting conifers upset the nearby Saranac property owners. The owners traveled to Albany where they were successful in terminating the forestry budget. As a result the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University (now SUNY/ESF) was established.*

the Pacific Northwest and in many tropical forest areas. For objective evaluation of forests for comparative purposes, it is more useful to try to identify the various levels of disturbance significantly impacting the forest, than to simplistically consider "relatively undisturbed" situations.

B. A more pragmatic approach to ecological study can be termed "synthetic" in the sense of testing and expanding our ecological understanding by trying to synthesize communities or ecosystems that develop and function as we expect. This has a long practical history in conservation, especially in tree planting, and is now gaining more stature as a scientific approach under the name of "restoration ecology". Although politically attractive, "restoration" is poor as a technical term. As suggested in the concept of homeorhesis, we can seldom truly restore any past population, community, or ecosystem in a dynamic world. Because of changing gene pools, long and short term environmental trends, and cultural contexts, the best we can do may be to try to imitate previous features we value.

An implied premise of synthetic ecology is that constructing an organism/environment system that works suggests that we understand how it works. The problem as shown by our regrown forests is that various natural potentials for recovery or other changes in biotic systems make it difficult to determine if our actions were in fact responsible for a desired result. So, we can learn something from failures in synthetic ecology, but little from successes.

Perhaps a more serious problem is that our models for success in synthetic ecology efforts may tend to be too simplistic and also politically influenced, contributing to polarization of action-oriented "restoration" and "resource management" against "protection" and "preservation" interests. The problem of simplified goals for synthetic ecology can be illustrated in two common regrowth situations in our forests; (1) planting open fields and (2) improving residual woodlots.

(1) In re-establishing forest by planting an old field, the easiest and fastest goal to achieve is closed, even-aged tree cover, especially if we use an easy-to-establish conifer species suited to the old field conditions. Natural establishment of subordinate strata of younger trees is slower and more difficult; dependent on available seed sources, opening the tree canopy by thinning, and freedom from destructive fauna.

"Regrown beaver population" meets regrown forest in the Adirondacks.

Even slower and less easily managed is the establishment of forest shrubs and herbaceous plants for a variety of forest fauna. While a forest litter will begin to form in a few decades, it will take several more decades for the old field plow-layer to change to a forest horizon. It may be more than a century before old-growth stand features such as large old trees, multiple age classes, and large dead snags and downed logs develop, although we can accelerate these by treatments imitating natural disturbances.

But I think the hallmark of a mature forest ecosystem in New York, especially on relatively shallow or poorer drained soils, is the development of windthrow mounds and hollows forming diverse micro-environments on the forest floor. This requires large trees and many windthrow events, so is likely to be beyond a human time scale unless the stand is"blessed" with a devastating windthrow event in the planter's old age. The planter does not "establish" a forest, but only initiates its development. Even with continuing intensive management, the manager's synthesizing efforts are likely to be strongly controlled by natural development processes.

(2) On the other hand, a typical old woodlot in New York would cause most foresters to urge stand "improvement", and there may be government subsidies available for the owner to carry these out. But in terms of "late-stage" forest qualities that may have various non-timber values, the woodlot is likely to be far ahead of the planted field in terms of multiple age classes in diverse species, large old trees, large snags and deadwood, forest shrubs, herbs, soil horizons, and windthrow mounds and hollows maintained through its long forest history- even if it was heavily cut and perhaps grazed sometime in the past. It may even have a scattering of high value timber trees if enough time has passed since last exploitation.

The usual goal of timber stand improvement is to develop a greater proportion of high value timber trees; perhaps higher numbers than is likely in "real old-growth" forests if they can be found in the region. To help achieve this, "undesirable" species may be removed, poor large trees may be salvaged to short-circuit large snags and downed logs, and salvage of large windthrown trees may reduce renewal of mounds and hollows as many cut stumps fall back into place.

Although I may disagree with the political motives, I must admit that some preservation group claims that "tree farms are not forests" may have validity in some cases. As suggested earlier, dynamic ecological concepts addressing the "imbalances of nature" can be quite challenging and do not provide easy answers for managing our regrown forests.

Norman Richards is a Professor of Forestry at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry where he has taught a graduate course in "application of ecological concepts" since 1969. As noted in previous FOREST OWNER articles, he has owned a tree farm in the Catskills for many years.

Does Your Forest Land Have Roots?

By Peter S. Levatich

Of course it does, several kinds of roots. There are tree roots. They seek out water, absorb and transport nutrients and hold food in storage during winter. There are flower roots and grass roots and spruce roots for stitching birch bark into canoe skins, small roots and big roots. There is ginseng..., the list goes on. But the roots of your forest land that I wish to call your attention to are the figurative roots, like your roots and mine, which tell part of the story of how we each got to where we are.

Ever since I acquired my forest land I puzzled over the old things now covered by the forest canopy. Stone heaps, the fence remnants, the edges of what used to be plowed land, the water holes laid out with field stone edges, shallow ditches running ten feet on center from nowhere to nowhere. I wondered: Why were these things created and when? What kind of effort had gone into it and with the help of what tools? What was he or she like who cared to do so and what kind of life could it have been? What are the roots of my land and what is its history?

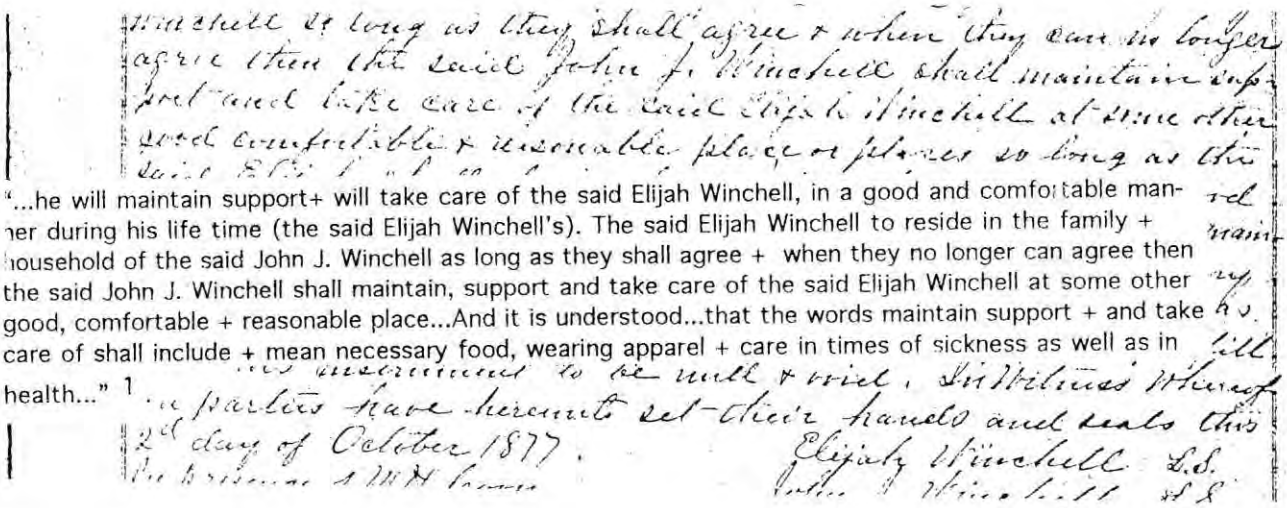
So I went to the county courthouse during a lunch break some years ago. The county clerk keeps public records which we may inspect free of charge. They showed me the index books listing land transactions: "Grantors" and "Grantees" neatly tabulated for each year. On other shelves were the copies of all deeds with a numbering system easy to navigate. I was hooked right then and there, and spent many lunch hours fascinated and taking notes. Eventually I traced the ownership of my forest land back to the year our county was formed.

Maybe your wood lot was in your ancestor's possession since the time of the Six Nations, mine surely was not. Starting in 1816, halves of two larger ownerships covered my parcel. In 1834 Eleazer Carter "and Belinda, his wife" owned it with another 187 acres and sold the entire spread to their son seven years later. He lived here and divided the land in three different areas and sold everything by 1867. My parcel was then enlarged from the east in 1883. The average ownership duration in the 180 years I traced is 7 1/2 years per owner...Restless people they were!

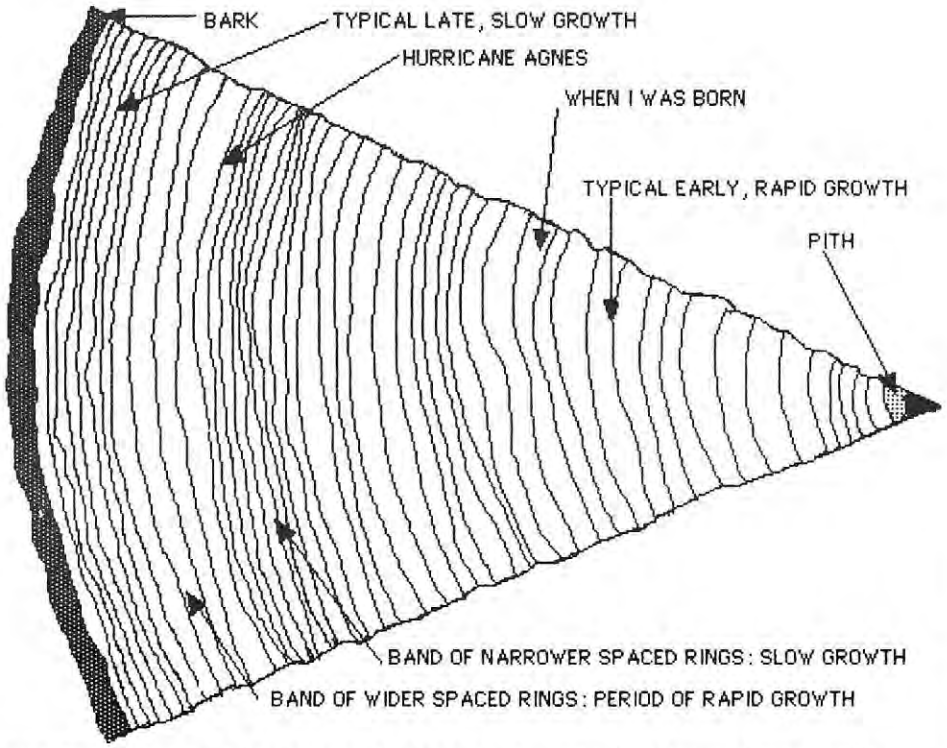
No mention of forests can be found in the deeds. Only occasionally is a tree mentioned at a corner location. In this regard I expect that your forest land history may be similar. Soon after my records start, most of the original forest cover was gone. Then again your land history may contain references to the remnant forest cover because small woodlots were retained on steep slopes. It would be historically significant to find more data. Look for it when you do your deed searches.

As you look for the roots of your forest land, you will find interesting things. You will see how the legal descriptions change. Mine are all business in the earliest deeds, slowly beginning to wish and later warrant in elaborate language the new owner happy, unlimited use of his new, wonderful possession. The social equality of female coowners gets increasingly recognized. The "Belinda, his wife" of 1834 becomes an acknowledged equal when "Charles Cantine and Catherine Cantine" buy the land in 1874. There is even a unique episode I found in the goings on next door to the east where Elijah Winchell leases his land to his son for care and support which the son agrees to provide during Elijah's remaining years. It is a detailed contract filed in the County records: Elijah wanted to make sure! It is not unlike our custom today - to get paid for our tree crop **before** it is cut; to make sure!

History leaves its mark on all of us and on our trees as well. Each tree carries within it the record of its life history. The good times and the bad are recorded in the annual rings. When an old tree goes down, I study the cut after a moment of silence. Most of the time the annual rings are far apart near the center because these were reforesting trees which started out in abandoned fields and pastures with plenty of light for rapid growth. Later the rings narrow indicating when the forest canopy closed in. Sometimes there are bands of wider or narrower rings. The wider bands may be due to increased light received perhaps because a neighbor tree died. Narrower ring bands may indicate drought, insect or pathogen attacks which slowed the growth. The number of rings tell me the age of the tree, of course, and so I can find out



"...he will maintain support+ will take care of the said Elijah Winchell, in a good and comfortable manner during his life time (the said Elijah Winchell's). The said Elijah Winchell to reside in the family + household of the said John J. Winchell as long as they shall agree + when they no longer can agree then the said John J. Winchell shall maintain, support and take care of the said Elijah Winchell at some other good, comfortable + reasonable place...And it is understood...that the words maintain support + and take care of shall include + mean necessary food, wearing apparel + care in times of sickness as well as in health..." [1]



CUT THROUGH A 100 YEAR OLD TREE WITH EVERY OTHER RING SHOWN

when these events took place. Has my TSI (Timber Stand Improvement) of 18 years ago helped this tree to grow faster? Were there periods of stress effecting the entire forest and where was I then? There are no clear answers, only tantalizing hints of the life of these inhabitants of the land who tend to outlive not only our ownership tenure but many things we have long forgotten.

You keep a diary of what you do in your forest, right? You write about what you have done, why, and how it turned out. You do that because otherwise you may forget in a few years. You accumulate a fine record by keeping a forest diary; not only for yourself, but for your successors in stewardship. How else will the next owner know what you have done and why? There is a good chance he or she will read your diary, or someone in the family will, and then they will look at the management plan you have attached and they will feel somewhat curious and a little guilty and they will start to think about how they might continue this thing that you have started, for their own goals, of course. In the end their goals may not be all that different as far as the forest is concerned.

Have fun discovering the roots of your land. Document the present to form a continuity for those who follow as stewards of the forest. Roots go a long way. In both directions.

Peter, NYFOA Vice President, representative for Tompkins County to the NYSDEC Region 7 Forest Practice Board, and a Master Forest Owner, is a frequent contributor to the NY FOREST OWNER.

Eastern Grey Squirrel

THE KINDLY BEECH TREE
A LEGEND OF THE CHIANTI HILLS

By Henry S. Kernan

Nine centuries ago the turmoil of barbaric invasions was at last quieting down over northern Italy. Along routes of travel clusters of trade and crafts were appearing and growing. One of them was in Tuscany at a crossing of the Arno river where one day would evolve over time the present-day city of Florence, now soaked in history and art. A few inhabitants of nearby Fiesole and other hill fortresses had dared move to a point on the river convenient for a bridge. They kept the bridge in repair; they fended off bandits; and they exacted tolls from merchants, travelers, and pilgrims.

Those vigorous, hot-blooded Tuscans were a quarrelsome lot. Civil disorders and family feuding were endemic. Personal codes of honor and vengeance took the place of law, courts, and officers of the peace. Family quarrels that endure for centuries were fought out in bloody and bitter combat.

Among the swashbuckling buckoes of Florence's turbulent citizenry was one Giovanni Gualberto (John Brightdale). His family was among those that passed for noble, with roots in the land-owning mountain lords that for centuries had terrorized the countryside. He must already have had several killings to his credit, or discredit,and may have had an inkling of the futility of personal vengeance. Nevertheless he was a man of his time and place, with sword, skill, and a code of conduct that allowed, even demanded violence.

One Easter Sunday morning he chanced to meet an unarmed enemy face-to-face on the Arno bridge. He drew his sword to strike. In a gesture of helpless despair, the enemy fell to his knees with arms thrown out in the shape of a cross.

That powerful symbol saved his life that Easter morning and kept Giovanni Gualberto from an act of pointless violence. He lowered his sword, spared, and embraced his enemy. However, the social structure of Florence at the time had no place for reformed and merciful buckoes. The anger and sneers of his kinsmen at having allowed an enemy to escape made him an outcast and an object of ridicule. Within a year he left Florence to find a life free of vengeance and hate.

The time of year was near the solstice of winter, perhaps Christmas Eve. He traveled alone, on foot, further and further into the Chianti hill country, up the steep heavily wooded valley of Vallombrosa. Darkness and snow came together. The rough, steep ground, the cold and the wind exhausted him more and more as he staggered forward and at last collapsed under a beech tree.

Christmas morning he awoke in a hut of branches entwined to protect him from the snow and cold. The kindly beech tree had saved his life.

Giovanni Gualberto was lost to the civic disorders and bloody feuds of Florence; from then on he kept to his sylvan retreat. At first he was alone. Before long, he was

joined by others for whom a steady, quiet life within the forest had more attractions than the feuds and disorders of the day. San Giovanni endured the hardships of Vallombrosa with abilities that a modern backpacker would envy. In times he doubled loaves bread. He caught where no fish were known to exist. With the power of his angry eye, he subdued and drove off unruly bears, wolves, and boar. He had a way with evil spirits and minor devils, thought of at the time as forms of undesirable wildlife.

Most notable of all, San Giovanni and his companions learned to live with and in the forest when other monastic orders were clearing western Europe of forests. Among the vineyards and stony, bushy pastures, the forest of Vallombrosa remains, a forest of majestic beech and fir. A research station, an arboretum and a school of forestry are there and remind the visitor of San Giovanni Gualberto, the patron saint of Italian foresters.

He is also the patron of Italian truck drivers. The wise ones put his medallion on their dashboards. Symbols of traffic control surround his grave and thoughtful face. Drivers thus know what traffic rules they are breaking and whom to ask for protection against whatever evil spirits haunt Italian highways in the form of traffic cops.

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

CHAPTER/AFFILIATES

CAPITAL DISTRICT

Our chapter is sponsoring a trip to the WJ Cowee Mill in Berlin, Rensselaer County **October 20** at 1PM.

This event offers a unique opportunity to see a very special wood products operation. Cowee's has a log yard and a concentration yard as well as production processes which produce turnings for furniture, toys, and crafts; and they also make floral picks and stakes. Visitors will be able to see the mills at work, and virtually see the process from logs to shipping. The company generates its own power in a co-generation agreement with NYSEG, and has just purchased a grinder that will enable them to generate power 24 hours a day.

The Cowee Forester will briefly describe management of the company's 28,000 acres of forest in New York, Vermont, and Massachusetts.

For directions contact Jill Cornell at 518/753-4336.

CAYUGA

H.M.C. Debarker at Millier's Mill

June 17 the chapter invited members of the Tioga and Central New York Chapters to attend a picnic/workshop meeting at member Bill Millier's saw mill. DEC Region 7 Forester Steve Davison did a short demonstration of grading and scaling logs for the 40 in attendance. The group then toured the facilities while Bill's crew sawed the scaled logs. Bill's band saw produced a considerable over run as measured by the Doyle scale. American Chestnut and Red Oak seedlings were provided as door prizes.

DEC FORESTER RON CADIEUX HONORED

Senior Forester of the NYS DEC was selected to receive the **1995 Outstanding Service to Forest Industry Award** by the Northeastern Loggers Association. Ron has received the Gold Hat Award for certifying over 100 Tree Farms and was the Oustanding Tree Farm Inspector in 1992 and Outstanding Tree Farm Chair in 1993. Ron is also an active member in the SAC Chapter. (Reprinted from SAC Newsletter, June '95)

Ron Cadieux - 1992 (right)

ALL SUMMER LONG I SEARCHED

By Dorothy Darling

All summer long I searched
for the keeper of the winds
I searched across the hot fields
as slow, solemn clouds moved
above the far horizon;
I searched the grassy meadows,
browning in the long day heat;
I searched on the high hill
but all lay languid and still;
I searched the sun-drenched valleys,
though not a twig was astir.

But one morning I felt a fair breeze,
a rising flow of soft, cool air
that quickened my lagging step
and spread a briskness everywhere;
autumn had entered in and at last
my search was at its end---
the keeper of the winds was at his task
and the cool earth began to sing again!

HONOR ROLL

The following members and/or groups were successful in recruiting new members to the New York Forest Owners Association over the past year (July '94-'95):

2 or more
Jim Cheeseman
Jil & Barry Cornell
Erwin & Polly Fullerton
Gregg Mackey
Peter Marchese
Charlie & Marion Mowatt
Peter Levatich
Don O'Shea
John Ridings
THRIFT
Jeff Wiegert

5 or more
Ron Cadieux
DEC Offices
Dick Fox
Mike Greason
John Hastings
Billy Morris

8 or more
Dale Schaefer
Tree Farm Committee

70 or more
Catskill Forest Association

Letters, Letters, Letters, Letters

BLOOMS

I would like to tell all, that once more now in my 80th year, I have been privileged to see the American Chestnut bloom, as they did in my youth. With help from Dick Fox and pollen from another American Chestnut tree from Auburn (owned by Hugh Brazee), the goodly supply of burrs may be pollinated. I am living in hopes that my tree will bear fertile fruit that I may once more harvest and be able to grow a tree therefrom.

In my basement I have a couple of chestnut boards that were sawed from trees which grew in my dooryard some 70 years ago, probably ancestors of the 7 trees now growing there. — *Lfee Signor, Moravia*

American Chestnut — Photo by Lfee Signor

WETLANDS

I have just recently become a member of the New York Forest Owners Association. I enjoy receiving the magazine and reading all of the interesting articles. One of the things I wish there was more of, is education about the vital role of wetlands.

Many people view wetlands as a nuisance, an obstacle to development, a breeding place for disease and sickness, and a hostile environment that should be eradicated. They don't seem to realize the value of what they are so eager to destroy.

For one thing wetlands function as a natural flood control system. When they lie adjacent to rivers, they catch and hold the excess water resulting from heavy downpours. This is what did not happen during the great Midwest Flood of 1993. Wetlands along the Mississippi River had been drained and destroyed to make way for new development. When that area was inundated with all the rain, the water had no place to go.

Not only do wetlands serve as reservoirs for excess water, they are also nurseries for all kinds of plant and animal life. These areas are usually characterized by a wide variety of vegetation. Grasses, sedges, shrubbery, and trees grow there; and this vegetation, in turn, supports a host of fish, fowl, and other creatures.

Many shorebirds and waterfowl depend on these areas during their annual migrations or make their homes there. Wetlands are the nurseries for a large population of ducks and geese as well as the spawning beds for fish and other aquatics. Wetlands provide food and shelter for others including beaver, muskrat, mink, and moose. Bear, deer, and raccoon also make use of wetlands. Worldwide, it is estimated that over 200 kinds of fish and shellfish depend on wetlands during part or all of their life cycle.

These areas also act as natural filters for removing pollutants and wastes from their watersheds and act as purifiers for the underground aquifers.

During the process of photosynthesis, green vegetation takes carbon dioxide from the air and gives off oxygen. Vegetation in wetlands has been found to be especially efficient at this.

Over the centuries many countries have recognized the value of wetland management for the production of food. China and India are examples of countries raising vast amounts of rice in wetlands. For about half the world's population, rice is a staple of the diet.

More recently the U.S. and Canada have been raising rice and cranberries in bogs and wetlands

We have some wet areas on our property and a swamp is located across the road from one of our parcels. We are also fortunate to have a small stream nearby where beaver make their homes. These are fascinating places. I wish I had more than a few minutes at a time to watch what goes on in these areas.

-(Most of the material in this letter was adapted from AWAKE,Jan 22,1994) Edna Brown McGinnett, North East, PA.

WANTED

Within the past month porcupine have been chewing the stump root swells of hard maple timber trees on my Onondaga County woodlot.

How can I rid my property from a very damaging and serious problem?

Anyone who has faced this situation and solved it, please share it by writing THE NY FOREST OWNER, now.

Thank you — *Bob Sand, Odessa*

P.S. I don't own a gun; but probably could borrow one.

OOPS

In my article, *What Size Your Saw Logs* (NYFO, May/Jun '95, 20) incorrect numbers were provided with the graphic.

The correct numbers are:

Geometric volume:	16.7 BDFT	9.4 BDFT
Doyle Scale:	9.0 BDFT	4.0 BDFT
1/4" International:	11.0 BDFT	5.5 BDFT

I am grateful to those who brought the errors to my attention and congratulate them for being thorough. — *Peter Levatich, Brooktondale.*

TIMBER CONTRACTS

By David J. Colligan

As a practicing attorney and a member of the New York Forest Owners Association, I have had many occasions to review timber contracts. My advice to everyone is to put all essential agreements between yourself and the timber buyer in writing. This article will discuss some of the essential elements of a timber contract and some of the considerations when preparing or entering into a timber contract.

Everyone selling timber should have a timber contract, even if the sale involves a small volume of sawlogs or a relatively small amount of firewood cordage. Prior to preparing the contract, the timber seller should know the following information:

A). The volume of wood product sold, either in stumpage sawlog volumes and/or firewood cords.
B). The boundaries of the property.
C). The price being paid prior to signing the contract.
D). The highest price a willing buyer will pay for the products being sold.

I must emphasize the highest price issue, as most clients approach me after signing a contract and ask me whether this is a "fair price". Once the contract is signed, it is too late to negotiate a "fair price" and, as seller, you are contractually obligated to sell to the buyer at the price stated in the contract. To protect yourself against an unfair price, it is my strongest recommendation that the timber volumes you collected be put out for bid so that timber buyers competing against each other (the real professionals against the real professionals) must determine what price they will pay knowing other bidders are entering bids on the timber.

Preparing a timber contract is a complex and specialized task. The average person who owns timber will find it very difficult to draft a contract that meets their own specifications without a great deal of effort and learning. Due to this, it is my advice that everyone selling timber, especially for the first time, seek out the advice of an experienced professional to assist them. Even though I am an attorney, my first suggestion would be to retain the services of a forester to assist you in obtaining the information necessary to prepare a timber contract and that you allow the forester to bid the sale to various timber buyers. Foresters are also very helpful in seeing that all of the contract terms are enforced. A forester can scale the volume of wood to be sold. They can mark the actual trees to be cut with marks at breast height (DBH) level and on the stump so that after the trees are cut, the forester can check to see if they were part of the sale contract. Foresters can also locate property boundaries as they have extensive training regarding boundary locations. Foresters are very helpful in submitting the bids to timber buyers, even outside your area, who may be interested in the wood products being sold.

Once the contract is signed, it is too late to negotiate a "fair price" and, as seller, you are contractually obligated to sell to the buyer at the price stated in the contract.

The NYSDEC has service foresters to help landowners sell their wood products. Many times the DEC service foresters have a long waiting list of woodlot owners they must meet with and they can give you a list of consulting foresters who work in your area to select from if you need immediate assistance. The consulting foresters help you obtain higher prices for your wood products and,therefore, often "pay for themselves". If you choose not to hire a forester, it is still recommended that you submit your timber contract to an attorney knowledgeable in timber contracts for review. If you are not sure whether or not trees from your woodland should or could be sold at this time, it would be advisable to request that a Master Forest Owner from your area visit your woodlot and answer the questions you have regarding possible wood sales and land management. It's a free service and will help you make your decision. **The NYFOA 800 number will supply you with the name of a Master Forest Owner in you area.**

When looking at a timber contract that is prepared by a timber buyer, remember that the contract has been prepared to protect the buyer only. Don't just fill in the blanks!

Rarely will you find a buyer's timber contract that contains even the oral promises made by the buyer when he was attempting to purchase your wood products.

A well-drafted timber contract should contain:

1. An objective description of the trees to be cut. It is best if the trees are marked for cutting with paint marks at DBH and at the stump. However, if a diameter cut is utilized without marking the tree, it is almost impossible to measure DBH after the tree has been skidded out of the woods. Remember, too, that the diameter "swells" at the stump of most trees.
2. Price to be paid and payment terms. Full payment should be made before the timber is cut when possible. Try to avoid pricing based upon unspecified volumes or mill receipts. Open price terms encourage high grading and are the most frequent source of complaints from timber sellers.
3. There should be a penalty for cutting unmarked or smaller trees or the wrong species of tree.
4. There should be an escrow held by the seller for the proper repair of the roads with water bars and erosion control features at the end of the contract.
5. A time limit to complete the cut. All uncut timber should revert to the seller.
6. Any special considerations, including: a) ground conditions; b) seasonal cutting restrictions; c) road use restrictions; d) stream crossing permits; e) oral promises by the buyer.
7. An insurance clause requiring the buyer to produce proof of the following insurances: a) workmen's compensation insurance; b) personal liability insurance.
8. A requirement to leave all the skid roads clear of debris and all the tops skidded back onto your property from the neighbor's property.

The above list is just some of the contract terms that should appear in your final timber contract. Many more terms can and should be used with the timber contract depending upon your personal circumstances. Since it is a long time between paydays when you are growing timber, it is wise to seek help from professionals on the rare occasions that you do sell timber so that you have the advice of a professional on your side when dealing with a professional timber buyer on the other side. Seeking advice from professionals after the contract is signed, is too late. Protect yourself and your valuable timber products from being taken advantage of and seek advice prior to signing any timber contracts. The cost and expense of a poorly-drafted timber contract far outweigh the value of competent advice prior to signing the contract.

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

BOOK REVIEW

Black Walnut

By Bob Chenoweth

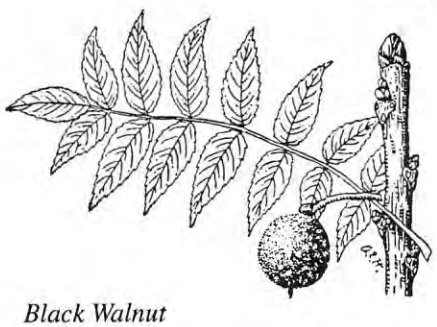
Bob Chenoweth who lives in Wayne, Pennsylvania has written nearly a definitive book on "The History, Use, and Unrealized Potential of a Unique American Renewable Resource". He has filled over 300 pages in this labor of love with researches on *Juglans nigra* inspired in part by pioneering ancestors to Chenoweth's home state of Illinois. There are over 40 black-and-white photographs and eight pages of full-color photographs particularly well reproduced by the printer.

Clearly not meant to be definitive in technical matters pertinent to dendrology or silviculture, the book is a delight to read for its forest owner values. Several sites known for black walnut growth are reviewed and critically evaluated in terms of management of a very valuable hardwood. Notable is the review of Cox's Woods designated as the Indiana Pioneer Mothers' Memorial Forest, an 88 acre virgin stand near Paoli, Indiana. In the zeal to preserve this stand without management there is a strong case to be made that such preservation may very well seriously degrade the quality and irretrievably alter the composition! In many such illustrative examples Bob Chenoweth expresses in an informative and entertaining style a lifetime dedication and love of every aspect of the tree, Black Walnut.

There are provided some favorite Black Walnut recipes with their Black Walnut cookbook sources. Further Appendices give a 4-page Directory of organizations, products, visual aids, and companies; and 5 pages of Bibliography; there is an Index of 12 pages.

The book may be purchased from Sagamore Publishing, Inc.; 302 West Hill Street, PO Box 647, Champaign, IL 61824-0647, (1-800-327-5557) for $28.95.

— R. Fox



Black Walnut

THE PRAYER OF THE TREE

Man! I am the warmth of your home in the cold winter night
and the protective shade when summer's sun is strong.
I am the framework of the roof to your house and the top
to your table, the bed in which you sleep and the timber
with which you fashion your boats.
I am the handle to your hoe and the door to your hut.
I am the wood of your cradle and the boards of your coffin.
I am the bread of kindness and the flower of beauty.
Hear my prayer: Destroy me not!

— Anonymous

**Reproduced from back cover of the book, "Black Walnut" by Bob Chenoweth*

NEW PRODUCT

Timber Harvester, Manufacturer of portable band-saw mills, has begun shipments of their Board Return System. The device, called simply "Board Dragbacks", are attachable to any of their line of portable mills. "Most of our customers buy a mill to make a living," explains Timber Harvester President Paul Nelson. "They need to produce as much saleable lumber as possible, without hiring extra people. Timber Harvester's niche in the market has been developing products that allow a sawyer to set up and run a mill alone. This is a major step in that direction."

The system is as a row of heavy steel "fingers" mounted to the saw head, which grab the board immediately after it's cut and pull it back to the operator with the saw head return trip. Timber Harvester designed their mill from the start to run non-stop with one man - the saw head cuts semi-automatically so the sawyer can tail the lumber while the mill is sawing the next board. The Board Drawbacks take the one-man-mill concept a step further. Since now the mill is tailing all his lumber automatically, the sawyer can use the time that's freed up for stacking or edging. "Even if you're a hobbyist," says Nelson, "the Board Dragbacks allow you to do the same amount of production with a lot less effort."

TH reports that some sawyers have set up a portable edger directly behind the mill operator's station, where the lumber returns to, and sawed and edged simultaneously, non-stop, alone! They report huge gains in time saved and lumber produced.

Timber Harvester, Inc. has manufactured portable band-saw mills in Waterloo, NY since 1989; they can be reached at 800/343-2969.

GUEST EDITORIAL:

LET IT ROT

By Eric Johnson

A powerful storm ripped through central New York early one morning in early July, knocking down trees and power lines - temporarily disrupting the fragile infrastructure up here in the Adirondack Park. Power lines were down, phone communication was spotty and our one physical link to the outside world - a two-lane state highway- was blocked in various places by uprooted and shattered trees. Tragically, several campers were killed when trees fell on their campsites.

Most people in the region had their basic services back within a few days. Even the nonessential luxuries of life came back online before long. As the parent of a teenager, for example, I knew the exact moment the cable television feed was restored.

By the end of the first week, after life had more or less returned to normal, we began to hear about large blowdowns all along the path of the storm. Some of these occurred in "forever wild" parts of the Park, where all timber harvesting activity has been banned for more than a hundred years, while other damage was sustained on privately-owned woodlots both inside and outside the Adirondack Park boundaries.

Blowdowns are nothing new in state-owned "forever wild" forests, where stands of timber way beyond their prime do what comes naturally, namely, grow old and weak and eventually blow over. Nobody ever does much to clean up the mess, other than clear the hiking and skiing trails when they become obstructed.

What sets the current devastation apart from business as usual is its large scale, and the fact that public attention has been drawn to the issue because so much salvage is needed on privately-owned property.

"While we're at it," some in the forest products industry have been saying to the state, "why not let us salvage some of the blow-down on state land in the Park?

"No way," say environmental groups who claim to care about the future health and viability of the Park. Loggers, they predict, will tear up the woods and use the salvage of dead trees as an excuse to start cutting live timber. Plus, they point out, blowdowns are part of nature, and keeping mankind from tampering with the natural order is what "forever wild" is all about.

Oddly enough, I'm going to side with the environmentalists on this one (in a way), by arguing that trying to salvage blown-down timber from "forever wild" areas is, in this case, a bad idea. Here's why:

* *Let the unsalvaged timber serve an educational purpose.* If proponents of "forever wild" think that letting nature take its course is such a fine idea, then let the public see the results of poor management; i.e., waste and disease and other general ugliness.

* *Why should we set ourselves up for a fall?* No matter how nice a job any logger does on a "forever wild" salvage operation, somebody will find fault with the job - real or imagined - and the industry as a whole will suffer the negative public relations consequences.

* *Work where you're most needed and appreciated.* There's plenty of salvage work to be done on private land - land owned by people who realize and appreciate its importance. Why should their property suffer from neglect and infestation while land that has been intentionally mismanaged receives all the care and attention?

* *No place to put it.* The same goes for marketing. This storm could not have come at a worse time. Virtually all log and pulp markets in the region are oversupplied this summer, with very little material moving anywhere. Much of the damaged timber is subject to stain and bugs, and will have to be removed quickly - both to preserve its value and prevent the spread of disease. Again why should the private landowner suffer at the expense of public resource mismanagement?

* *Have some pride.* Should the timber industry content itself to pick up the crumbs falling from the plate of environmental elitists? The real issue here is a state policy of not managing a big chunk of what could be productive timberland. Participating in an approved "salvage" operation might be perceived as some measure of approval for the whole misguided enterprise.

I can understand loggers' frustration at seeing some very nice timber (in some cases better than could be had elsewhere) going to waste as a matter of principle. But this is a matter of principle: Perhaps the best demonstration of the value of responsible forest management will be to wait five years, and then ask people to compare two sites - one salvaged responsibly, and one "preserved."

Reproduced from THE NORTHERN LOGGER and Timber Processor, Aug, '95

THE 1995 NYFOA FALL MEETING

September 30th and October 1st, 1995, Lakeville, NY

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME TO THE FINGER LAKES AREA
by Stanley Stek

Flying over the Finger Lakes gives you a perspective that this truly is a special place. Driving through gives you a sense of how vast this area is. But, walking in the forest gives you a sensational point of view.

With water quality being the main objective, it can be seen that wildlife, recreation, and timber production are integrated within the well posted boundaries. This rugged terrain illustrates the need for public access to large holdings. Reaching the boat launches of two lakes via paved roads is ideal. The watershed is divided into various stands in a variety of stages.

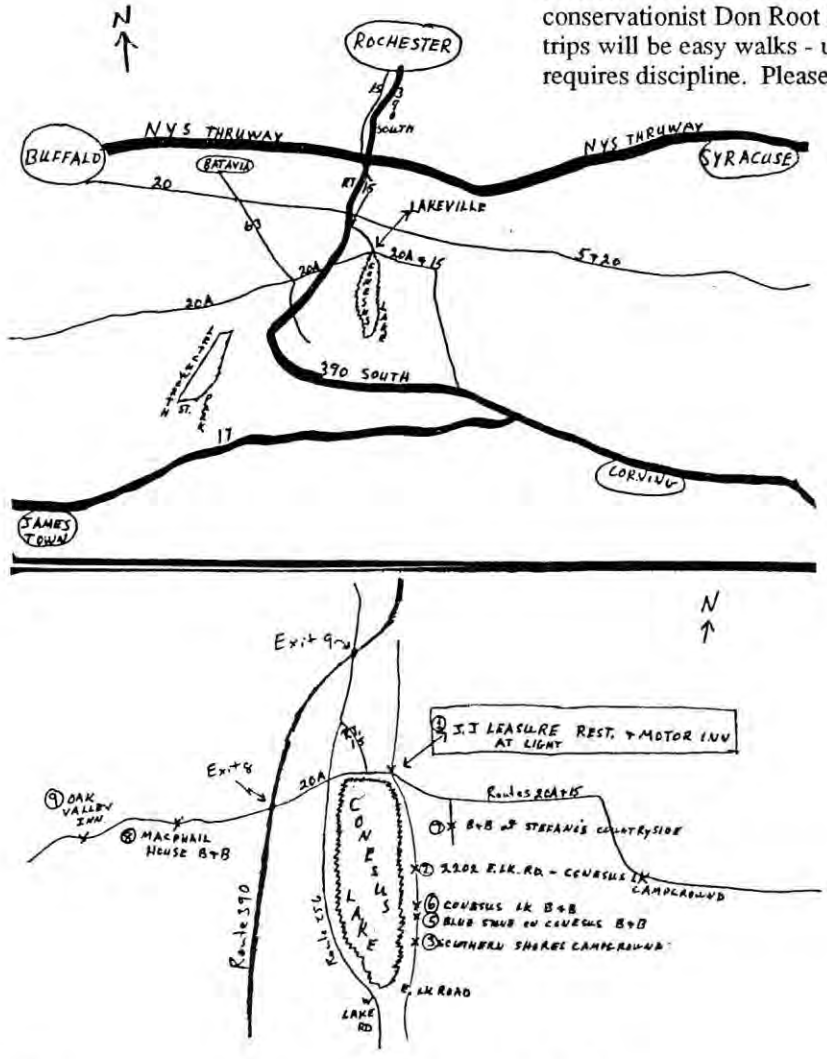
Spending some time with the trees will inform as well as invigorate the visitor. Local residents take pride in living among this splendor and we invite everyone to share its glory.

DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATIONS
by Bruce Robinson

A visit to Hemlock and Canadice Lakes, water supply for the City of Rochester, has many rewards. For the NYFOA'n it offers a look at management of a large parcel of land governed by specific goals. The 7100 acres owned by the City of Rochester are managed for the assurance of high water quality. Lesser, but interrelated, goals include open space retention, maintenance of a healthy and varied forest, and wildlife habitat stabilization and enhancement.

Field excursions during the NYFOA Annual Meeting will examine timber sales, TSI in older plantations, plantings with tree shelters, erosion mitigation, wetlands projects, and much more. Understanding how each relates to water quality should lead to interesting discussions. A slide program Saturday evening will show areas unseen by most people. Some before-and-after shots of ongoing projects will provide special insight. Wildlife use, especially birds, will highlight the evening program.

Forester Bruce Robinson will be assisted by watershed conservationist Don Root in guiding discussions. All field trips will be easy walks - unless, of course, the unruly crowd requires discipline. Please join us!



NYFOA - WESTERN FINGER LAKES *September 30th & October 1st, 1995*

REGISTRATION FORM

Fall meeting: September 30, 1995 and October 1, 1995, in Lakeville, NY, which is at the north end of Conesus Lake. The field trips will be on forested property around Canadice & Hemlock lakes, the only undeveloped lakes in the area.

Please complete and mail this form (or copy) before September 11, 1995, with your check payable to NYFOA to: Eileen Van Wie, 6017 County Rd #37, Springwater, NY 14560. For questions, call 716-367-2849, evenings.

Name: _____

(For couples, please include both first names for name tags)

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Registration: $25.00 x _____ persons = _____

(includes continental breakfast, box lunch, buffet dinner & registration fee)

AGENDA

SATURDAY, September 30, 1995:

8:00 am to 9:30 am	Registration and continental breakfast	
10:00 am to 12:30 pm	Field trip including:	• Before & after conifer thinning. • Importance of forest litter to the watershed. • Ice storm damage & tree defense systems
12:30 pm to 1:15 pm	Box lunch at boat launch.	
1:15 pm to 4:30 pm	Field trip- Combining:	• A timber sale. • Developing a hiking trail. • Forest aesthetics.
6:00 pm	Dinner	
7:30 pm	Slide presentation by Bruce Robinson, Private Forestry Consultant. Drawing for door prizes & the beautiful quilt crafted by Master Quilter, Betty Wagner.	

SUNDAY, October 1, 1995:

8:00 am	Optional breakfast buffet available, $4.95 per person.
10:00 am to 12:00 pm	Hike to look at wetlands project; some completed last year, and some under construction now.

ACCOMODATIONS

1. J.J. Leasure Restaurant and Motor Inn, (headquarters) 716-346-2120
   (Only 24 rooms available, and will be held until Friday, September 8th.)
2. Conesus Lake Campground, 2202 East Lake Road, Conesus, NY 14435, 716-346-5472
3. Southern Shores Campground, 2125 East Lake Road, Conesus, NY 14435, 716-346-5482
4. Letchworth State Park, 716-493-2611
5. Bed & Breakfast at Bluestone on Conesus, 2387 East Lake Road, Conesus, NY 14435, 716-346-6929
6. Bed & Breakfast at Conesus Lake, 2388 East Lake Road, Conesus, NY 14435, 716-346-6526, 1-800-724-4841
7. Bed & Breakfast at Stefano's Countryside, 3915 Pennimite Road, Livonia, NY 14435, 716-346-6338
8. MacPhail House Bed & Breakfast, 5477 Lakevill Road, Geneseo, NY, 716-346-5600
9. Oak Valley Inn, 4235 Lakeville Road, Geneseo, NY, 716-243-5570

Return of Larch Casebearer

By Douglas C. Allen

As I prowled the Adirondacks and northern reaches of the Green Mountains this spring and early summer, I noticed for the first time in several years that larch foliage appeared "scorched" in many areas. When larch needles turn brown in early summer, this is often a tell tale sign of an insect known as larch casebearer. I thought it worthwhile to introduce forest owners to the insect and its damage before someone attributes the malady to acid rain!

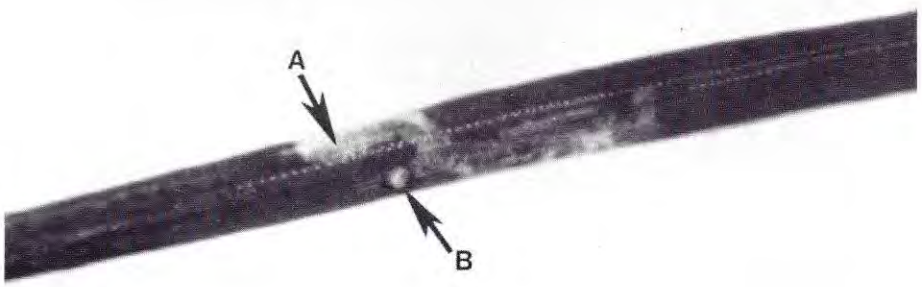


Fig. 2. Larch needle damaged by an early stage of larch casebearer: A, leaf mine; B, egg.

Another Exotic

This moth was introduced from Europe into Massachusetts during the mid-1880s and since then has spread throughout the range of larch in North America. It feeds on both native and exotic species of *Larix*.

Fig. 1. Scorched or frosted appearance of larch foliage mined by larch casebearer caterpillars.

The Damage

Outbreaks of larch casebearer in the eastern United States early in this century through the 1950s were more prolonged and severe compared to episodes that have appeared during the past 30 years. Now outbreaks in our region are of shorter duration and more localized. Though eastern larch (tamarack) has limited commercial use people value this conifer because it serves as a source of food for wildlife, it adds diversity to our landscape and its foliage is very attractive in the fall.

Severe casebearer defoliation in the east rarely kills larch. It may, however, reduce height and diameter growth by 90% or more and cause branch mortality. The most significant impact in our region is aesthetic. People who travel through rural areas in the summer find brown needles and sparse foliage unattractive (Fig. 1). Larch often occurs in small, nearly pure natural stands or in plantations, which tends to make this damage more obvious. Most of the damage occurs in spring when full grown caterpillars emerge from hibernation and feed on the new foliage. Mined needles drop prematurely.

Fig. 3 Cluster of overwintering cases on larch twig. Each case contains a caterpillar.

Description and Life History

The silvery to grayish adults are very small, with a wingspan of only 5/16". They are active in early summer at which time females deposit tiny eggs singly on foliage. Upon emerging from the egg, each caterpillar bores directly into the needle and spends its life as a leafminer (Fig. 2). The next time you pass a larch, take a look at its foliage to get an idea of just how small this insect must be in order to live within a larch needle! Individual caterpillars mine several needles during the summer. Late in the season, each one lines a hollowed piece of needle with silk and clips this section off to form a case, within which it lives. Because the caterpillar continues to grow, new cases are formed as needed to accommodate its larger size.

As winter approaches, larvae move to outer branches and attach their cases to a twig. Overwintering cases are grayish-brown, approximately 1/4" long and often occur in clusters (Fig. 3). Caterpillars feed for a while in early spring and then transform from caterpillar to moth (pupate) within their cases. Moths emerge from late May through June and the cycle is repeated.

Biological Control

The principle reason that larch casebearer outbreaks are now less widespread and of shorter duration is due largely to the collective action of introduced parasites. The primary players in this biological control are two wasp species which were introduced into Canada during the late 1930s and early 1940s. Indeed, this is a classic example of the successful biological control of a forest insect. The limited commercial value of eastern larch combined with effective biological control in eastern North America have eliminated the need for chemical control.

TO THE EDITOR: It seems to me that THE FOREST OWNER is getting too serious these days. Would this small facetia have a place as a filler in some issue, or does it lack sufficient dignity?

ALL ABOUT EVOLUTION OR WHY WE HAVE TO HAVE FORESTERS

By Robert A. Hellmann

Once upon a time in the faraway land of Pangaea there were lots of little tiny green things in all the ponds and lakes, and every time the wind blew the little tiny green things washed up on the muddy shores. Then some of them decided to stay there, and they grew into mosses and liverworts, and they thought themselves pretty fancy, and they called themselves **bryophytes**. But the animals didn't think they were fancy. and they laughed at them and called them **gametophytes**. Then the bryophytes grew things over the tops of themselves and called them, **sporophytes**; but the sporophytes kept growing taller and taller, and pretty soon they looked down on the gametophytes and said,"We're more important than you; because we have more chromosomes." Then the sporophytes made flowers and put the gametophytes into them and made them stay there. Then the sporophytes laughed and sang and got all dressed up in fancy leaves and grew taller and taller until they grew into trees, and that's why we have to have **foresters** today.

Bob Hellmann is a former Director of NYFOA, past Chairman NYSDEC Region 8 Forest Practice Board, and Professor Emeritus of SUNY Brockport; and he maintains his interest in Environmental Biology.

TRANSITION

In July, Wes and Carol Suhr moved to their new retirement home in the Southwest, after they sold both their lovely home and outstanding St. Lawrence County Tree Farm. They leave a host of friends and good neighbors. Thus ends a long association with northern New York, the Adirondacks, the New York Ranger School at Wanakena, NAC forest owners, and NYFOA. Now they return to an area they both enjoy and know well; because they lived and worked in the Southwest years ago when Wes was with the U.S. Forest Service. They leave to be closer to their family.

Forest owners in New York have indeed been fortunate to have had the benefit of Wes's outstanding leadership and expertise. His dedicated hands-on example of sound silviculture and forest management are to be emulated. Wes has served THE NY FOREST OWNER as the "Ask-A-Forester" Editor and in a similar capacity for both the WOODLAND STEWARD and the NAC Newsletter. NYFOA membership has benefited from the many interesting articles he has published.

We will miss you both as you have been outstanding members of NYFOA. You leave a legacy of concerned forest ownership and accomplishment that many may aspire to duplicate on their forest land.

Having enjoyed a long friendship with the Suhrs, we wish them much good health and happiness in their new home. One day our paths again will cross. In the meantime, let's keep in touch:

Wes & Carol Suhr
Route #4
Box 65A
Santa Fe, NM 87501

THE EDUCATION OF FOREST ECONOMICS

The following is adapted from a letter to the Editor of CHEMICAL & ENGINEERING NEWS, 1/23/95, giving a variety of sources for this short study on teaching mathematics:

* **In 1960:** A logger sells a truckload of sawlogs for $100. His cost of production is four-fifths of this price. What is his profit?

* **In 1970:** A logger sells a truckload of sawlogs for $100. His cost of production is four-fifths of this price, or $80. What is his profit?

* **In 1970 (new math):** A logger exchanges a set S of sawlogs for a set M of money. The cardinality of set M os 100, and each element is worth $1.00. Make 100 dots representing the elements of the set M. The set C of the costs of production contains 20 fewer points than set M. Represent the set C as a subset of M, and answer the following question: What is the cardinality of the set P of profits?

* **In 1980:** A logger sells a truckload of wood for $100. He paid $80, and he made $20. Your homework: underline the number 20.

* **In 1990 (outcome-based education):** By cutting down beautiful forest trees, a logger makes $20. What do you think of this way of making a living? (Topic for class participation: How did the forest birds and squirrels feel?)

A CURE FOR COUNT DRACULA

By Jane Sorensen Lord, Phd,OTR,ND

I handed the fresh picked flower to my oral surgeon.

"You asked what and how I used it after surgery." I pulled an ounce bottle with an eye dropper from my pocket and explained. "I tilted my head towards the side of the surgery, squirted about three full droppers around the tooth, sloshed it a bit, and held it there for about five minutes. Then I swallowed it. Just as the anesthesia began to wear off, I took a pain pill, then another before I went to bed. When I woke up, there was no swelling and no pain. I did the same thing when you operated last year."

"Usually patients have pain and swelling for a few days after apical surgery. What is the name of this flower? I see it growing all over."

"Yarrow."

"Yarrow. So, do you think the Indians used it? Do you know the history?"

Indians, I'm sure used it because it grows everywhere and has broad uses. But the history of this herb lies in the legends of Greek mythology.

Apollo, the God of Health taught Chiron, the centaur, the secrets and the methods of the healing arts. Chiron, in turn, taught Achilles about yarrow. According to legend, in the midst of a battle, to help him remobilize his soldiers, Chiron showed Achilles a plant that stopped bleeding and healed wounds made by iron.

Achillea millefolium carries his name. And it does stop bleeding; but if you get injured by something iron, get a tetanus shot! On cuts and scrapes, yarrow works very fast. Be sure to clean out the injury before using; because it will heal over dirt and cinders. Sometime ago while camping, I fell and scraped my knee; I used yarrow immediately. Overnight the skin started to heal over the dirt and I had to re-scrape it. (YUK)

My husband, Gordon, and I use it for dental work that causes bleeding. It works on razor nicks and surgical scars. (My oral surgeon was not the first of my doctors who has seen yarrow's first aid and healing effects!)

Yarrow is easy to grow by transplanting small plants in the early summer or better by collecting seeds and planting them in the fall. Yarrow comes in red, yellow, and white. I have not seen the yellow and the red is more magenta, very beautiful. I have read that the red is better for healing, I don't know. However, thanks to bees and humming birds, my red yarrow has mixed it up with the wild white plants and we now have pink!

Yarrow can be used fresh in a poultice or as a tea. Drinking the tea, which does not taste great, is supposed to help you heal from the inside, out. I've drunk it for a few days before intrusive measures and after accidents that break skin.

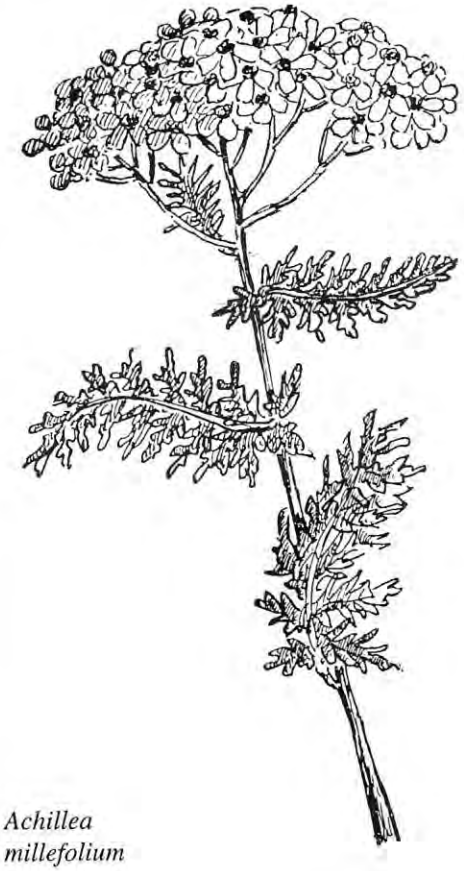
I extract it in food-quality oils (avocado, peanut, rape seed, apricot, etc.) to use for healing. I add it to my summer skin oils; because it helps sun and wind burn. Since it is not my favorite smell, I usually add an essential perfume oil, like lemon verbena to overpower it.

I had a first time use for yarrow recently. I had been mucking near shore in a local pond collecting aquarium plants. After I got home, washed, and planted the aquatic weeds, I sat down to take my answering machine messages. I felt a wetness on my ankle and looked down to see flowing blood! No pain. Washing revealed a small leech. He let go when covered by a cotton ball saturated with nail polish remover. But the bleeding didn't stop. So I saturated another cotton ball with yarrow oil and held it with pressure for a few minutes. The bleeding stopped.

The first time I got leeched, I couldn't get the bleeding to stop. And then I read, that like the vampire bat, leeches inject an anesthetic as well as a blood anticoagulant to keep the wounds' owners unaware and to keep the wound open so they can lap up the flowing blood.

M-m-m-m. Maybe I should write to Transylvania castle owners: plant more yarrow!

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.



Achillea millefolium

The Marketplace

ATTENTION small woodlot owners/part time loggers - For FARMI winches and VALBY chippers, write Hewitt's Hill Haven, Locke, NY 13092 or call (315) 497-1266 (Before 8AM or after 6PM).

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FOR SALE: 170 acres Allegany County; 80 acres pine and hardwoods; deer, turkey, grouse; call Henry Hansen, evenings (716) 334-3569; Good project for interested woodsman.

For Sale— A well-managed timberland tract in Ellenburg, NY consisting of 191 acres near Upper Chateauguy Lake. Asking $85,000. For more details contact Ben Hudson at Wagner Woodlands and Co., P.O. Box 128, Lyme, NH 03768 (603) 795-2165.

Christmas Tree Grower seeking wholesaler. 500 Scotch Pine in 1996. More coming. Spruces, Fraser Fir, Balsam Fir. Contact Black Forest Products, 3824 Pembrooke Lane, Vestal, NY 13850.

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Marketplace: $10 minimum for 25 words or less, 10c each additional word.

Contact: R.J. Fox, Editor
RD 3, Box 88,
Moravia, NY
13118
Fax/Phone:
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Circulation 1950.

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Non-Profit Org.
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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.

NYFOA SPECIALS

The following promotional items especially designed for NYFOA may be obtained from Deborah Gill, Administrative Secretary; PO Box 180, Fairport, NY 14450; (716) 377-6060 or directly from and with support for your local chapter:

Shoulder Patches	$2.00	50% Cotton T-Shirts	$8.00
Window Decals	0.50	100% Cotton T-Shirts	9.00
Member Sign	2.00	Long-sleeved Shirts	13.00
Pewter Lapel Pins	4.00	Sweatshirts	16.00

PLEASE PROVIDE SIZE & PHONE NO.

WOODLOT CALENDAR

Sep 30: 2day NYFOA FALL MEETING Hemlock Lake; Eileen Van Wie; 716/367-2849(eve) See Page 18.

Oct 7: SAC; Woodswalk, Jack Leadley's Woodlot; Speculator; 518/798-0248.

Oct 20: CDC; 1PM; W J Cowee Mill tour; Berlin; 518/753-4336

Coming Issues—NY Forest Owner

Forest Soils
By Edwin White, SUNY/ESF
Corridor Management
By Larry Abrahamson, SUNY/ESF
Land As Collateral
By Rick Percoco, Farm Credit