

# *The New York* **FOREST OWNER**

A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association

November/December 1995



• THE FALL MEETING •  
• HILLS & HOLLERS • THE BIG BLOW OF 1995 •



**THE NEW YORK  
FOREST OWNER**

VOL. 33, NO. 6  
OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

**Bill Miner, President**  
1123 Cold Springs Road  
Liverpool, NY 13088; (315) 451-3712

**Peter Levatich, Vice President**  
158 Bailor Road  
Brooktondale, NY 14817; (607) 539-7049

**Robert M. Sand, Recording Secretary**  
300 Church Street  
Odessa, NY 14869-9703; (607) 594-2130

**Clara Miner, Treasurer**  
1123 Cold Springs Road  
Liverpool, NY 13088; (315) 451-3712

**Deborah Gill, Administrative Secretary**  
P.O. Box 180  
Fairport, NY 14450; (716) 377-6060

**1996**  
Albert Brown, Stow; (716) 763-9067  
Verner Hudson, Elbridge; (315) 689-3314  
Peter Levatich, Brooktondale; (607) 539-7049  
Don Wagner, Utica; (315) 733-7391

**1997**  
John T. Hastings, Queensbury; (518) 798-0248  
Charles Mowatt, Savona; (607) 583-7006  
Norman Richards, Syracuse; (315) 472-3696  
Elizabeth Wagner, Utica; (315) 733-7391

**1998**  
Jill Cornell, Johnsonville; (518) 753-4336  
Elizabeth Densmore, Machias; (716) 942-6600  
Robert Sand, Odessa; (607) 594-2130  
Bob Sykes, Elbridge; (315) 673-3691

**AFFILIATE REPRESENTATIVES**  
Dick Mark, THRIFT; (315) 623-9476  
Donna Rogler, Catskill Forest Assoc.; (914) 586-3054

**CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES**  
Mark & Joann Kurtis, Allegheny Foothills; (716) 945-6012  
Tom Hewitt, Cayuga; (315) 497-1266  
Barry Cornell, Capital District; (518) 797-3623  
Bob Sykes, Central New York; (315) 673-3691  
Jeff Wiegert, Lower Hudson; (914) 831-3109  
Bob Howard, Northern Adirondack West; (315) 262-2692  
Herb Boyce, Northern Adirondack East; (518) 946-7040  
Donald Fraser, Niagara Frontier; (716) 773-7011  
Ernst Spencer, SE Adirondack; (518) 792-1726  
Larry Lepak, Southern Tier; (607) 656-8504  
Don Schaufler, Tioga; (607) 589-6095  
Eileen VanWie, Western Finger Lakes; (716) 367-2849

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**COVER:** NYFOA display, donated by Funds of the Western Finger Lakes Chapter in memory of Karen Anderson.

**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 Jan/Feb is Dec 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.

**The Fall Meeting**



Bruce Robinson addresses the woodswalkers at NYFOA's Fall Meeting on Forest Management of the Rochester Watershed (see page 16).

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Miner

Summer passes so quickly in the north-east, but what a great summer it was. Clara and I had a chance to spend some time with my family and got in a few long weekends in Maine, Boston, and Ottawa. Interspersed with our personal life were a number of forestry related events that we attended. I will take this opportunity to review some of these activities and the people we got to know along the way.

In July we attended the Tree Farm meeting at Paul Smith's College. It was good to see the interest and support of the Tree Farm system and the revival of this annual summer program. I was most pleased to learn that a significant proportion of the attendees were active NYFOA members. The meeting was very informative and highlighted by the presentation of the 1995 New York Outstanding Tree Farmer's Award that was presented to **Jack and Nancy McShane** of our affiliate, the Catskill Forest Association. The McShanes own 254 acres in Andes. Jack is currently serving as President of CFA and has been active on a number of state committees. Our congratulations to Jack and Nancy.

The early morning of July 15, 1995 brought to St Lawrence and northern Herkimer counties what has been described as "the most catastrophic storm in 50 years" (for more see page 4 and 5 this issue). It is estimated in this area, alone, that 22,500 acres of forestland were damaged in the storm. **Don Wagner**, past NYFOA president, reported damage at his summer home resulted in the loss of a number of mature trees; and **Dick Mark**, the President of our THRIFT affiliate, reported the loss of about 200 trees on his forested property. Estimated timber losses for this particular region are put at \$2.6 million before salvage.

The first of September, Cayuga County's Soil and Water Conservation District celebrated their 50th Anniversary by holding an Open House at the new Natural Resource Center facility located just outside Auburn. The Cayuga and Central NY Chapters had displays along with NYFOA. Despite a light rain for most of the day, several hundred people braved the weather to join the festivities which included exhibits, demonstrations, and a chicken barbecue. I would like to express our gratitude, to District Manager **Jim Hotaling** and all the employees of the District for inviting us to partici-



*President Bill Miner examines the winning quilt raffle ticket at the NYFOA Fall Meeting.*

pate in this special event.

WOW, what a great fall meeting! Many thanks to **Eileen Van Wie**, **Dale Schaefer**, and the committee members of the Western Finger Lakes Chapter for their efforts in hosting the 1995 NYFOA Fall Meeting. A detailed report of this meeting appears in this issue of the NY FOREST OWNER. **A REMINDER:** We have not received any chapter bids for the 1996 Fall Meeting; if your chapter wishes to bid please forward it to Debbie Gill ASAP.

After dinner at the Fall Meeting, the drawing of the winning ticket for the "Adirondack Beauty" quilt was made by Past President **Don Wagner**. I am pleased to announce that **Sue Mitchell** from Averill Park was the winner. Betty Wagner, who crafted and donated the quilt had the pleasure of calling Ms. Mitchell to inform her that she was the winner. A total of 5354 raffle tickets were sold by chapters/affiliates in this "all NYFOA" effort to raise funds in support of our application for a 501(c)3 not-for-profit Foundation.

Timber Theft is a potential problem for wood lot owners. What should you do to protect yourself and your investment? Well,

**Ron Pederson**, Capital District Chapter member, may have some answers for you. Ron has produced a slide program that will be sent, free of charge, to all chapters that wish to address these questions. Ron has been working with Mike Greason, NYS DEC, on this project. I will send a letter explaining this special project to chapter chairs by the end of October. A special thanks to Ron for his efforts to keep NYFOA members informed.

The State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry has asked me to participate in a two day conference entitled "The Empire Forest: Changes and Challenges" to be held on November 13-14, 1995, in Syracuse. This program will look at the most recent USDA Forest Inventory and Analysis figures and explore policy challenges we face today. This is one of several meetings to be held in different states leading to the Seventh American Forest Congress to be held in 1996 in Washington.

Well, that's about it for this issue. As always, your questions and comments are welcome.



# A FEW THOUGHTS ON THE BIG BLOW OF '95

By John Gibbs

On the morning of July 15, a severe storm struck the Adirondack Region of New York State. Millions of acres were covered by the storm path of which about one million acres were significantly affected. An area of approximately 125,000 acres in and around the Five Ponds Wilderness Area was heavily impacted. In contrast, the 1950 blowdown affected roughly 424,000 acres of the Adirondack Region.

An interesting array of legal (NYS Constitution and Environmental Conservation Law) and policy (NYS Land Master Plan) constraints regarding salvage and other management activities enter the picture due to the different designations of state land. Forest Preserve (wilderness, wild forest, etc.), Reforestation Areas, and Multiple Use Areas have different rules and regulations that apply.

Outside the Adirondack "Blue Line", Reforestation Areas in St. Lawrence and Lewis Counties were hit hard and salvage sales are underway. Many of the damaged stands in these forests are not economically and biologically mature, but the foresters had no say in what areas got blown over. Black cherry and white ash were windthrown more easily due to their dominant crown class and small root systems. Often these two species are a large component of the blowdown in partially blowdown stands.

I expect salvage operations within the Forest Preserve to be debated for some time. Although I feel it would be impractical to salvage all the blowdown, to ban any salvage is a mistake. At the very least this would offer research opportunities, but may



well prevent fires and reduce hazards in heavily used areas. I was dismayed to learn the ESFPA's (Empire State Forest Products Association) position is to oppose any salvage in the Forest Preserve. After all the industry's criticism of New York State locking-up timber in the Forest Preserve, to repent on their principles is very disturbing. I do not feel the market will be flooded by salvaging. Production is much slower, and I have not seen harvesters who are migrating to this region looking for work or local contractors who are hiring many more people. On a local scale some markets have been swamped; and some people that only work in the woods during the winter are starting a little early. The argument that operations will not be adequately controlled is something I take rather personally. As a

professional forester, if given the proper authority, I can control the operation. Granted staffing of state forestry programs is decreasing, but if not overloaded, state personnel will do a great job. Why not donate the material to Habitat for Humanity - they have indicated that they are interested?

Although the possibility of a disastrous fire running from Harrisville to Tupper Lake is negligible, given the right weather conditions (such as this summer) and the high level of public use, the risk of fire is high. A fire in one of the "brush piles" created by the storm will be unstoppable until it reaches relatively undisturbed areas. Remember suppression activities are legally required, so a good plan will need to be in place. Trails running through these areas of heavy fuel will represent a safety concern not only from a fire standpoint, but also from search and rescue. People will go to Five Ponds, particularly to hunt, whether the trails are closed or not, and more than likely, someone will get lost or injured. It will be extremely difficult to locate and evacuate anyone given the present conditions.

Because of legal restrictions on motorized vehicles and policy restrictions on chainsaw use by the DEC, trails in Wilderness Areas have not been cleared (except by the public). Trail clearing in this area will require chainsaws and motorized equipment in order to be cost effective and safe.

An assessment report was requested by DEC Commissioner Michael Zagata and public input is required. I encourage those interested to actively participate.

*John Gibbs is a professional forester residing on his Beaver and Bedrock Tree Farm in Richville, NY.*

## Conservationists Support Salvage

The Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board, which represents 11 counties of the Adirondack Park Region, as a result of the July 15, 1995 storm by resolution urged that Governor Pataki and DEC Commissioner Zagata "...promptly assess the extent and value of downed timber and to authorize the use of necessary men and equipment to promptly salvage the down timber in a manner consistent with good forestry practices and promptly re-open blocked trails..."

The Board "...believes that salvage of the down timber and clearing of the blocked trails is in the best economic and ecological interest of the Adirondacks, its residents, and the People of the State of New York, because it will reduce the fire hazard, open blocked trails, preserve some of the commercial value of the down timber, and protect the remaining timber from disease, insects and fire..."

This resolution was presented to the 62nd Annual Meeting of the New York State Conservation Council held in Cortland, September 15-17, 1995 for their consideration and support. The NYS Conservation Council, the oldest conservation organization in New York, represents sportsmen and conservationists and is very active on their behalf regarding legislation that affects natural resource management. NYS DEC Commissioner Michael Zagata was the keynote speaker at this year's meeting with 47 member counties in attendance in addition to many other alternates and associate members.

**The resolution as drafted by the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board was unanimously supported by the NYS Conservation Council.**



# FOREST RANGERS WARN OF INCREASED RISKS TO HUNTERS

DEC Forest Rangers are warning hunters of a heightened risk to public safety caused by the blowdown of timber from the severe wind storm that passed through the area on July 15, 1995 according to Thomas Brown, Regional Director for NYS DEC Region 6.

Forest Rangers are particularly concerned for the safety of individuals who plan on hunting in southern St. Lawrence, northern Herkimer, and Lewis Counties, the areas most severely impacted by the wind storm.

The area of primary concern is a 126,000 acre tract of land south of Star and Cranberry Lakes and north of Stillwater Reservoir known as the Five Ponds Wilderness. This area was most heavily hit by the windstorm; while analysis is still under way it is likely more than 60 percent of the trees have been blown down, with many areas where 100% are down. Trees were uprooted and snapped off and many others suffered major crown and root damage, therefore leaving leaning trees and hanging branches poised to fall at any time.

Any area where some blowdown has occurred will, of course, increase the risk of using the woods. The simple acts of climbing over, under, around or through blown down trees heightens the risk of personal injury, and increasing travel time. Also, the risk of getting lost is much greater, especially for hunters who venture off trails. Even light blowdown changes the appearances of an area, and can hide or eliminate familiar reference points used to guide people through the woods. The traditional hunting drives for deer will be virtually impossible to carry out in some areas. The downed trees will interfere with search and rescue efforts should anyone get injured or become lost in an area of blowdown. Initial notification time, response time by Rangers and emergency personnel, and extrication will take much longer than normal. Risks to rescuers will also be increased, particularly where helicopters are needed to remove people, since the urgency of a rescue situation causes rescuers to respond even when the flying conditions are less than ideal.

The Five Ponds Wilderness is the most heavily damaged area, although there are strips of 50 to 100 percent blowdown south to McKeever (south of Old Forge) and scattered throughout the Adirondacks to the east. In the Five Ponds, two examples of trail conditions exemplify the problems of traveling through blowdown areas. Immediately following the storm, an Assistant



*Blow down in Five Ponds Wilderness Area.  
Photos by Ed Tuthill, through helicopter plexiglass.*

Ranger hiked from High Falls to the Five Ponds and then to Wanakena to look for stranded or injured hikers. This hike, which normally takes a half-day, took **two days and fifteen** hours of hiking (not including rest stops). Secondly, a group that hiked from Janack's Landing on Cranberry Lake to Cat Mountain, a 45 minute walk that took four hours. There are other examples where the trail entirely disappears under heavy blowdown, and no one has been through to date. Most trails into the Five Ponds Wilderness are virtually impassable, and will likely not be cleared until decisions are made on clearing, relocating, or leaving some trails closed.

Forest Rangers recommend hunters take special care this year wherever they hunt:

- \* Check out the area ahead of time so you know if there is significant blowdown that will affect how you can hunt an area.
- \* Bring and know how to use a compass.
- \* Tell friends, relatives, or fellow hunters where you are going and when you will be back.
- \* Avoid areas of moderate and heavy blowdown. Even with a compass, travel will be difficult through these areas.
- \* For the Five Ponds Wilderness, specifically, avoid all but the periphery, and check any location you plan to hunt ahead of time to be sure hunting is feasible.

**If you are adjacent to an area of moderate to heavy blowdown, be especially careful with fire; while much of the material on the ground has not dried out enough to present a major fire danger, there is clearly more risk of fire now than before the storm.**

*For further information, contact Regional Forest Ranger Captain Paul Hartmann at 315/866-6330 in Region 6 or Regional Forest Ranger Captain John Gillen at 518/897-1300 in Region 5.*



Fire Cherry (*Prunus pensylvanica*)



# HILLS AND HOLLERS

By Dick Fox

The more I learned about forestry in the state of Ohio, the more I was reminded of forestry in my own Cayuga County. Agriculture is the principle land use in both areas to which government resources are appropriately directed; and both have had an ancient history of agriculture practiced by Indians.

The geography has a passing similarity: the southeast areas of both political entities are the beginnings of the Appalachian (Allegheny) Plateau and, currently, represent relatively much more forested land; and both regions have wetlands in their northern parts. It is the former prairie lands of Ohio that has determined the use to be



*Crop tree management exercise of tulip poplars led by Ohio State Dept. of Natural Resources Foresters Tom Berger and Dave Schatz under shade of giant sycamore.*

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agriculture and it is the Lake Plain/glacial effects which extend between the Finger Lakes that provide the agrisoils in Cayuga County.

The history and distribution of forests is similar: Ohio's forest has increased from a low in 1940 of 12 % to 27% in 1979; and, according to the 1991 USDA Forest Survey, Ohio presently has 7.9 million acres, 30% of the state, in forests. Cayuga County is 35-40% forested while about



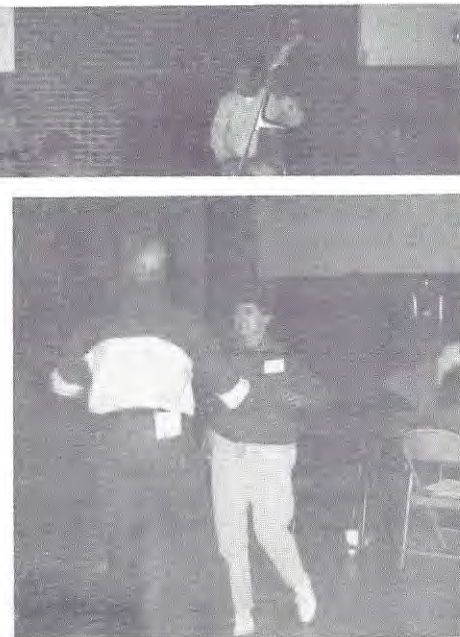
*John Simon & Company (above) entertain Ohio forest owners (above and right) with bluegrass folk music.*

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62% of the southeastern portions of land in both political entities are in forest.

The species composition is different, reflecting the differences in latitude: the region I visited, southeastern Ohio, showed more sycamore, tulip poplar, dogwood, and sassafras; but significantly absent in the forests of my county are examples of pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*, an understory shrub or small tree which bears an edible banana-like fruit) and Virginia pine (*Pinus virginiana*, 30-60', "harder", will pioneer poor sites, and is a significant component of the forest there).

The occasion for the visit and the comparison was the result of NYFOA's former



Executive Director **John Marchant's** many outreach efforts. It was through such efforts that John and NYFOA became known to **Ron Miller**, a cooperative extension forester charged with forest utilization and research at Piketon, Ohio.

Ron, as a facilitator, sought a speaker to address forest ownership organizations which might serve Ohio's needs.

Presently there are nine regional forestry groups in Ohio representing over 300,000 private landowners who own 93% of 7.86 million acres of Ohio's forested land for a mean average of 22 acres per owner, com-



*The Quarters at Canter's Cave.*



pared to New York's 500,000 owners of 14.4 million acres for a mean average of 29 acres per owner. Both states have 7% of their respective forests in public ownership; and, according to the 1991 USDA Forest Survey, both states enjoy a net rate of growth (growth less loss from disease, windthrow, etc.) **2 1/2 - 3 times** the rate of removal!

The nine regional groups have been organized for from 2 to 22 years. NYFOA, a state-wide organization has been organized for over thirty years; but only during the last third of that time has there been local or regional associations within the state organization. It has become clear to NYFOA that the role of a local group adds an inestimable significance to the future of forestry by advancing the mission and goals of NYFOA in addition to the vision and special concerns and emphasis of the local groups. Whereas, without loss to the autonomy of the local grouping, the state-wide organization may provide a common denominator as to recognition and general services.

In order to stimulate the interest in Ohio to form a state-wide "umbrella" and to provide a forum, two of the groups, Southern Ohio Forestlands Association and Southeast Ohio Woodland Interest Group, agreed to sponsor the first WOW (Woodland Owners Weekend) at Canter's Cave in Jackson, Ohio, September 22-24, the weekend which preceded NYFOA's own Annual Fall Meeting.

Canter's Cave was a superlative meeting place actually owned by the 4-H Coopera-



*Ohio State Parks manager, Phil Zito leads group in Wildflower and Native Vegetation Identification Exercise.*

tive Corporation. The 350-acre outdoor education center serves both adult and youth groups and is located uniquely among sandstone outwashes of the glaciers. Because there is no evidence of the glacier or marine fossils in southeastern Ohio and the vicinity of Canter's Cave; the cliffs, overhang, and rock out-croppings provide ample opportunity for geological speculation and Druidic beauty.

Both the people in attendance (some 50 or so) and the program the Ohio sponsors put together, reminded me of NYFOAs and what we do at our meetings except for some small but special differences. The hills and hollers of that region and the coincidence of the tracks of a raccoon were not supported by the music of coon or fox hounds in chase, a former passion of mine,

although I persisted in listening for them.

However, there was, equally as spiningling and plaintive as the music of chasing hounds, blue grass music. **Cynthia Jenkins**, Soil and Water Conservation District Forest Technician, sang and played guitar Friday night. For Saturday night, after dinner and my presentation, there was a performance by a company of four musicians led by **John Simon**. This group sang and played folk music and selections from the audience on 12 different wooded string instruments; the woods of which were described and subsequently made available for examination. The Appalachian music prompted some in the audience to dance along a bit and one of the musicians provided a typical dance solo. And Sunday morning, also with music, an interdenominational worship of Stewardship by lifelong woodland owner/manager **Harold Jeffers** concluded the weekend on an inspirational high.

I will treasure the memory of the first Ohio Woodland Owners Weekend even if they never have another. Thank you, NYFOA and Ohio's forest owners for providing the opportunity and, for me, the honor.



*Ohio State Parks manager, Phil Zito describes plant life associated with unique sandstone outcroppings of Canter's Cave.*

## OHIO BUCKEYE

The state tree of Ohio is a common tree native to that area called Ohio Buckeye, (*Aesculus glabra*) similar to the asiatic naturalized species called the Horsechestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) found in New York. The wood is light and soft and may be used for pulpwood, woodenware, corewood, and occasionally lumber.



# Who Says They Don't Lend on Bare Land?

By Rick Percoco

Walter and Phyllis want to buy 100 acres from Lucy for \$60,000, with a \$10,000 down payment. They ask the seller to hold a mortgage for the \$50,000 balance, at 10% interest payable over 20 years. The owner refuses the terms of the offer, wanting all cash.

It is common for landowners to be asked to "hold paper"; that is, act as a bank and finance the buyer. Sometimes a seller wants the interest income, or creates a tax advantage by holding a mortgage. More typically the seller prefers the cash from a sale to use for another purpose and does not want the work and risk that comes with collecting the payments.

Is this the end of what looked like a good buy for Walter and Phyllis? Not necessarily. It is true that there are few options for outside financing of land purchases. Occasionally a mortgage broker can assemble a syndicate of investors who will pool their money and offer financing, but these groups do not often last too long and such financing is not uniformly available.

It was problems like these that led to the start of the **Farm Credit System**, 78 years ago. Now the short answer to the question raised is that Farm Credit *will* lend on land. But some restrictions apply.

Loan restrictions typically apply according to the type of property. As an example, let's say that Walter and Phyllis want to borrow the \$50,000 to buy 100 acres. Assuming they can afford to pay back the loan, they must have sufficient equity in this or another *agricultural* asset to secure the loan.

Agriculture is a broad term, including: cropland, forestland, pasture, barns, or the house. To borrow from Farm Credit, either the person or the property must be "eligible".

In the last 10 to 20 years, Fannie Mae has made fixed rate mortgages widespread and popular. The Farm Credit loan would most likely be variable, which is that the interest rate would change. Rates are set relative to the Federal Index, usually mir-

roring the changes in the more familiar Prime rate. The length of time to repay the loan, its "term", may be shorter than Fannie Mae's 20, 25, or 30 years.

Back to Walter and Phyllis. They are buying the 100 acres from their neighbor for \$60,000. Assume that it is a woodlot with poletimber hardwoods so that it is an eligible agricultural asset, and they can afford the loan. The last hurdle is that the property appraise for an amount high enough, so that the loan is no more than 85% of the property's worth. This is a law that restricts the Farm Credit System, although often times a loan officer expects a lower loan to value ratio. Sometimes a buyer will hire the Farm Credit appraiser to give an opinion before setting the purchase price, for negotiating purposes and for loan approval. A timber cruise may also be performed, if appropriate.

If the property appraises for their purchase price of \$60,000, then Walter and Phyllis may be approved by their loan officer for \$50,000. It may be a variable loan with a ten year term, and may also contain an assignment of timber during that time.

The key to working with most lenders is showing an organized approach to your finances, with a plan for your future. The primary goal of Farm Credit is helping support agriculture across the United States. Woodlots, Christmas tree farms, orchards, sawmills, and nurseries are some of the tree-related businesses we finance. Last year in New York State, Farm Credit had over \$9 million in timber loans alone. So it is possible to borrow on land.

*Farm Credit is a nation-wide system of co-operatives, owned by the borrowers and operated for their benefit. This benefit is in the form of better interest rates, credit when it would not otherwise be available, and many professional services. Rick Percoco is a forester and real estate appraiser in the Farm Credit office in Greenwich, NY. For the location of the nearest Farm Credit office, call 1/800/234-0269.*

## 1995 Professional Timber Harvester Award



Jeannel Lizotte (left) and John Courtney Jr.

The NYSTimber Producers Association has promoted the interests and well being of the timber harvester since its formation in 1970. The NYSTPA presents a NYS timber harvester once-a-year with the Professional Timber Harvester Award. This year marks the 15th year the award has been presented. NYSTPA President John Courtney Jr. presented the 1995 award to **Jeannel Lizotte** of Tupper Lake at ceremonies in Boonville.

This award is given to commend a timber harvester for outstanding practices in areas of: Management, Safety Performances, Condition and Appearance of Logging Equipment and Woodlot, and History in the Logging Industry. This year's award winner is a veteran timber harvester of 30 years.

Jeannel was born in New Brunswick, Canada and is the son of Leo and Aureal Lizotte. In 1965 he came to the U.S. and started work for Laurent Nadeau in Tupper Lake. In 1976 Jeannel started his own timber harvesting business with only a skidder. In 1977 he added a truck and loader. Today, he has 8 trucks, 5 skidders, loaders, and slashers. An American dream come true.

Jeannel's wife Cindy, daughter Amy, and son, Scott, help in the business.



# THE SEVENTH AMERICAN FOREST CONGRESS

*many voices, a common vision*

The Seventh American Forest Congress builds on a rich history. The first Forest Congress, held in 1882, laid the foundation for the conservation movement in the United States. The second, hosted by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1905, solidified the establishment of the national forest system and led to the creation of the Forest Service.

In January 1995, a group of citizens with a broad spectrum of interests in forests held a roundtable discussion at the Arbor Day Foundation in Nebraska. The meeting was prompted by a clear recognition that the current methods for making decisions on forest issues are not producing satisfactory results. America's forests are being subjected to increased and conflicting demands, a variety of regulations and inconsistent judicial rulings, and poor management that puts their health and productivity at risk. There is no set of guiding principles to lead away from these conflicts and towards a vision that is aligned with the needs of the American public.

The Seventh American Forest Congress is scheduled for February 21-24, 1996 in Washington, D.C.

Local roundtables held in each state will precede the 1996 Forest Congress and are intended to solicit state-specific information that will form the basis for the national discussion. "The Empire State: Changes and Challenges", held in Syracuse on November 13-14, 1995 will serve as New York's sounding board in preparation for the Forest Congress. The goal of this local roundtable is twofold:

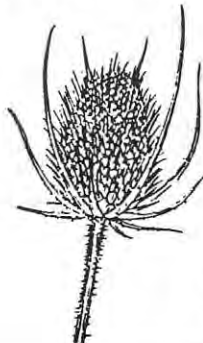
\* To understand the present state of New York's forest resource and interpret information for multiple values and uses.

\* To explore future possibilities and policy options for enhancing economic and environmental values in New York.

Michael Zagata, Commissioner of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, is scheduled to kick-off the roundtable in Syracuse with a speech on the history, values, and opportunities in New York's forests. Other highlights of the two-day conference will be the release of results contained in the latest Forest Inventory, as compiled by the USDA Forest Service, and a banquet featuring Bernadette Castro, Commissioner of Parks, Recreation, and Historical Preservation.

NYFOA's President Bill Minerd will serve as one of the response panelists to focus on Forest Policy, 1-3 PM Monday, November 13. He will provide a New York State Non-Industrial Private Forestowner (NIPF) response.

For more information on how you may participate and contribute, contact: 1) for the Seventh American Forest Congress in Washington D.C., call 203/432-5117; 2) for "The Empire Forest: The Changes and Challenges" conference in Syracuse call SUNY/ESF at 315/470-6539



Teasel  
(*Dipsacus sylvestris*)

## Fountain Forestry Acquires Consulting Business

Fountain Forestry, Inc. is pleased to announce that it has acquired 14 year-old Forest Management Associates, a forestry consulting business based in Montpelier, Vermont, which currently manages 76,000 acres in the region and has been particularly successful at managing properties enrolled in the Vermont Use Value Appraisal Program.

Fountain Forestry, Inc. has been providing forest management services throughout the northeastern US since 1980, serving a range of private, institutional, and overseas clients. With the acquisition of Forest Management Associates, Fountain Forestry now manages close to 225,000 acres throughout the northeast.

## Bruce E. Robinson, Inc. FORESTRY CONSULTANTS



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- WOODLOT IMPROVEMENTS IN IMMATURE STANDS
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# Letter to Betty Wagner

Dear Betty:

On behalf of the NYFOA Board of Directors and general membership, please accept our deepest gratitude for the time and talent you devoted to making the "Adirondack Beauty" quilt. It is indeed a lasting work of art that will bring warmth and beauty to generations of families for many years to come. It is heartening to consider that years from now, on a cold winter night, someone will follow the course of fabric and thread from the cool blues of winter to the bright colors of summer and fall, a reminder of the eternal promise of spring and the renewal of life in the forest.

I do believe that this quilt will possess an uncanny warmth that comes from your heart and your willing to share with others. Your vision is an inspiration to us all. You have demonstrated that one person can make a significant difference in the direction of a larger organization. We all have special talents that we can bring to NYFOA; what we need to do is take your direction and learn to give.

I must admit that I was among the 5,353 disappointed persons that did not hold the winning ticket. However, my consolation prize was to participate in the first "All NYFOA" project which was a success.

Thank you again for your leadership and commitment to our NYFOA family.

Sincerely,

/s/ Bill Miner, President, NYFOA

## Congratulations

The special prize money offered by an anonymous donor to chapters/affiliates selling over 500 raffle tickets was captured by the following:

THRIFT .....	\$250
Western Finger Lakes .....	\$100
Niagara Frontier .....	\$50
Capital District .....	\$25

## THE WINNER

Ron Pederson, my husband Barry, and I enjoyed presenting the beautiful quilt made by Betty Wagner to the raffle winner, Sue Mitchell of Averill Park in our Capital District Chapter area.

We were in the faculty room of Questar III Park in Troy. Sue drives a school bus to that facility; and she and her husband own a woodprocessor and have a fuel wood business. That is why they were at Woodsman's Field Days in Boonville where she bought the winning raffle ticket.

There were many "Ohhs and Ahhs" from the surrounding people as the quilt was unfolded. The best comment came from one of the school staff who said, "It is so beautiful it takes my breath away; what incredible talent to create such a spectacular blend and contrast of colors!"

Many thanks to Betty Wagner for designing, making and donating this magnificent creation to benefit NYFOA.

— Jill Cornell,  
Johnsonville

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# NYS DEC REDUCES SERVICE TO PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS

*Administrative changes, a reduction in service by over 50 percent, to the implementation of Section 480-a of the Real Property Tax Law were recently announced at the NYS DEC Region 7 Forest Practice Board. At the request of the Board a copy of the memoranda and relevant letters were included with the mailing of the minutes. The memorandum detailing the change is herewith reprinted:*

September 8, 1995  
TO: Regional Foresters  
FROM: Robert H. Bathrick  
SUBJECT: Real Property Tax Law, Section 480-a Administration

In light of our present staffing situation, it is necessary to reduce time spent on RPTL, 480-a administration from 5.5 work years annually to no more than 2.7 work years. In order to achieve this, we will switch to a ministerial role and significantly reduce field inspections.

Applications for new certifications and amendments will be accepted rather than approved. To accomplish this, we will provide a stamp stating "accepted" to be imprinted on the face of the Certificate of Approval. Applications will be "accepted" if they fulfill the requirements set forth in Part 199.6 of the Rules and Regulations governing 480-a. No field inspections are required on these initial applications, except as outlined below.

Prescriptions for silvicultural actions will be accepted as long as they are developed by a forester. The acceptance stamp will be utilized on the Notice of Commercial Harvest form to indicate acceptance

rather than examination. Stumpage values will be certified as submitted as long as they appear reasonable in the judgement of the Regional Forester.

Amendments will be approved if they appear to be reasonable.

Notices and Annual Commitment forms will be sent to all participants annually. Notice in this case will not be landowner specific; rather all landowners will be instructed to check their Certificate of Approval for work needs and/or 5 and 15 year update requirements.

A maximum of 5% inspections of all applications and compliances can be made. Priority may be assigned on the basis of complaints and first hand knowledge of problems as perceived by the Regional Forester.

To implement this policy, the enclosed letters are to be sent to all landowners, foresters and assessors involved in and applying for 480-a. Until this administrative procedure is changed, all future applicants are to receive the landowner letter.

/s/ Robert Bathrick  
Director of Lands and Forests

*Considerable discussion attended the announcement. Concern was expressed regarding the future commitment of NYS DEC to providing services to the private landowner. It was recommended that members contact the Governor, DEC Commissioner, and Chairpersons of the Conservation Committees of both houses. Further action will await the outcome of transferring much of the responsibility to the private consulting foresters.*

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

Senator Owen Johnson  
Chairman, Senate Consv Com  
409 Legislative Office Bldg  
Albany, NY 12247  
518/455-3411

Commissioner Michael D. Zagata  
Executive Office  
50 Wolf Road  
Albany, NY 12233-1010  
518/457-7866

Assemblyman Richard Brodsky  
Chairman, Assembly Consv Com  
625 Legislative Office Bldg  
Albany, NY 12248  
518/455-5753

# 1995 Maple Syrup Production

Production of maple syrup this year for New York is estimated at 208,000 gallons, 17 percent below the 1994 output of 251,000 gallons, according to New York Agricultural Statistics Service. The number of taps, at 1.56 million was up 15 percent from a year earlier, but the yield per tap was one of the lowest recorded. Temperatures, which determine sap flow and quality of syrup, were too warm in many regions for optimal flow. Sap was below average for sweetness, requiring an average of 47 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup. A preliminary estimate places the value of this year's production at 5.2 million dollars, down 15 percent from the 1994 crop.

Production in Vermont was 365,000 gallons, down 17 percent from a year ago. Syrup production in Maine was up 8 percent while production in Massachusetts and New Hampshire decreased by 28 and 12 percent respectively.

For a complete report contact your NYS DEC Forestry Office.

*From SEA Chapter, NYFOA Newsletter.*

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# CHAPTERS/AFFILIATES

## SOUTHEASTERN ADIRONDACK

Dave and Jane Jenks of Schroon Lake hosted the woodswalks of July 15, the day of the infamous blowdown. Adverse weather conditions could not deter about 20 SEAC members and friends from attending. After some technical difficulties at registration, including a brown-out delaying coffee, we proceeded to Howard Lashway's tree farm where he is attempting to maintain open fields by planting Christmas trees of several species. Items discussed include the tremendous work in clearing 30-40 year old forests, site preparation, and maintenance. An unforeseen risk was the fact that part of the fields was used as a permitted sewage disposal site. Instead of the extra fertility being an asset, mortality was increased due to suffocation, mold, and competition. Many other unforeseen risks were discussed, including drought, pests, and time taken from a busy schedule to do maintenance and expense.

The next stop was Dave and Jane's Tree Farm where we had lunch and discussed their management goals and objectives. They are do-it-yourselfers that cut and skid their own trees for firewood, campwood, and sawlogs to run through their own portable band-saw mill. A major topic of discussion was logging aesthetics and workmanship. The adjacent property is being logged commercially and comparisons were made on management goals and the resultant tree selection and visual impact



*Above, members of the SEA Chapter listen to Jane Jenks describe the management goals for the Jenks property, while having lunch at their Adirondack-style lean-to.*

*At right, Steve Warne, DEC Forester presents Howard Lashway with a Forest Stewardship sign at the July Woodswalk of the SEA Chapter.*

*Photos by Patricia Kay*  
\* \* \*

of a knowledgeable landowner doing his own work and a more or less typical commercial cutting. Due to a right-of-way agreement, the landing is on the Jenk's property and will be made into a permanent wildlife food plot.



## CATSKILL FOREST ASSOCIATION

The Catskill Forest Association held its Annual Meeting September 9th; over 40 people attended the event held at the Ashokan Field Campus of SUNY-New Paltz.

During the business meeting, Directors Robert Bishop, John Ruchar, Doug Murphy, and Scott Abrahamson were re-elected to the Board. President Jack McShane turned the meeting over to Executive Director Dinnie Sloman, who highlighted CFA's activities and accomplishments over the past year. Donna Rogler, Director of Education, briefly spoke to the group about the day's activities and then congratulated President McShane and his wife, Nancy, for being chosen as the NYS Outstanding Tree Farmers of 1995.

The morning workshop session, "Protecting Your Property", began after a short break and featured three presentations that examined current and future actions land-

owners can take to safeguard their property: Richard Brooks, of Brooks & Brooks Land Surveyors of Phoenicia, described boundary line identification and maintenance; Dale Hughes, Land Protection Associate at the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, discussed conservation easements; and Norman Kellar, senior partner with the law firm of Kellar & Kellar in Kingston, concluded with a presentation on estate planning.

After lunch, the Board of Directors elected: President - Jack McShane; Vice-President - John Ruchar; Secretary - Robert Bishop; and Treasurer - James Dunbar.

When the participants reconvened for the afternoon session, the results of the raffle and auction were announced by CFA Program Associate, Dave Riordan. President Jack McShane made a special presentation to CFA founding member, Bob Bishop: a letter of achievement from the NYS Tree

Farm Committee recognizing his many outstanding contributions to forestry in the Catskills.

The much anticipated afternoon program, CROPTREE MANAGEMENT, was presented by Arlyn Perkey, Forester with the USDA Forest Service in Morgantown, West Virginia. Crop Tree Management is a system of forest resource management that offers private, non-industrial forestland owners a means of accomplishing single or multiple stewardship goals. It focuses on releasing individual trees that have been selected to produce benefits consistent with landowner objectives. Mr Perkey gave a slide presentation and then led the group on a woodswalk to show how the technique would be applied to a forest. Participants were so interested in Mr. Perkey's presentation that many elected to extend the woodswalk an extra half hour in order to practice marking trees for the technique.



# Letters.....

## ALLEGANY STATE PARK AND THE COST OF AN OAK BOARD

I am pleased that you published the story about the creeks (Stream Corridors, Jul/Aug '95, 18). I think it is a story that needed to be told and you did it very well.

The matter about harvesting trees in the 64 thousand acre Allegany State Park still smolders. Parks Commissioner Bernadette Castro, in a personal communication, has "...restarted the dialogue on the Master Plan..." for the Allegany State Park.

Recently I saw an oak board in a local store; it was 5'x12"x1" - 5 board foot; and with sales tax it was priced at \$36. Such costs make the price of a house or furniture very high.

— Homer Stennett, Jamestown.

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## THE LAMENT OF A WHITE TAIL DEER

We stand on the side of the South Shore Road, sometimes in the middle too.

Anxiously waiting those outstretched arms offering us a handful of "goo".

Whether it's cookies, crackers, or fries,

it's a brand new experience in our eyes.

Your bread and your rolls are temptingly good, never saw the likes of this in our wood.

Apples and carrots may be fine

but now we CRAVE the sweet greasy kind.

We have to take what comes our way

waiting on the South Shore Road all day.

*"a mild protest against feeding deer junk food"*

M.S.B., Fourth Lake



Alcohol Inky (*Coprinus atramentarius*)

# CAYUGA CHAPTER



September 27, 1995, Cayuga Chapter Chairman Tom Hewitt is both host and cook (pancakes and sausage) at Hewitt's Hill Haven for the monthly meeting of the Cayuga County Federation of Conservation Clubs, of which the Cayuga Chapter is a member.

## Timber Theft Update & Help

After a year of research and preparation, NYFOA has prepared a set of slides with a written script to be made available to each chapter and affiliate for outreach efforts. There are 76 slides; the script is keyed as to when to advance each slide and takes about 30 minutes to read. The handout booklet will be about 10 pages long, double sided.

The presentation is necessarily quite general; but complete and can stand on its own. It is geared to an audience not as familiar with timber sales, consultant foresters, etc., as many NYFOA members.

It is hoped that each chapter/affiliate in the coming year will:

- \* make use of the slide presentation with its members and provide copies of the handout,
- \* make it publicly known that the program is available to be shown to other groups, and
- \* reach out to farm groups, cooperative extension, rod and gun clubs, environmental groups, service clubs etc. as may be appropriate in each area and offer to present the program.

## THE NEMESIS OF NOVEMBER

By Dorothy Darling

Time fashions ghostly forms in autumn;  
Yesterday a tall Poplar split the air  
As though starch the blood of its veins;  
Today green from all the rains has gone,  
The long dance in the soft winds wanes.

Pretentious the sway where there's no life  
As strident gales cut like a sharp knife  
The hollow trunk and hurl it down  
To crush the garden's weathered fence  
And sprawl across the adjacent ground.

The nemesis of November descends *sans merci*,  
Flaunting the force of its will and power  
As the aged Oak, grown gray and grown gaunt,  
Crashes down like a giant tower.

Trunks shorn of limb, disengaged and grim  
As time fingers yet another ghost,  
Looming high above the garden wall,  
Brittle gray and aged into eternity,  
Pointing skyward, unbending and tall.

But November winds persist, gusty and cold,  
Assailing the bare and leafless limbs,  
And trunks that have lost their sway  
Fall and resound like thunderous hymns.



# HEALTHY FORESTS: DEC'S ROLE

By Michael J. Birmingham

This article may have as well have been about what the forest owner's role is in protecting forest health. For ultimately, it is not the state, but the forest owners who are responsible for forest protection and collectively; they accomplish what no government could do as well. However, the state has a role and DEC, as lead state agency in natural resources, has a long history of helping forest owners. Its role changed in 1982, when it discontinued funding the spraying of forest lands. Today its role in forest health is primarily data gathering and information dissemination. The actual protection practices, with few exceptions, are carried out by the forest owner or other agents, such as consultant foresters and loggers.

## DEC ORGANIZATION FOR SERVICES DELIVERY

To understand better how DEC delivers services, one needs to know the agencies' basic organization. There are nine regions and 13 suboffices staffed with forestry personnel. A call, letter, or personal visit to any one of the centrally located offices will enlighten you as to the forestry programs available to you. To bolster the regions, Albany provides a wide range of support in the form of publications, training, research funds, and establishes guidelines to follow. The organizational structure puts services where the forest owners live.

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON FOREST HEALTH

Before forestry staff can disseminate information on forest health, they must become familiar with local conditions. Most of the information is based on field observations made while performing routine forestry work. Observations are reported to one

central place in the region, compiled, and sent to Albany for analysis and recording. The data is entered into the New York Pest Conditions Report, an electronic database. Reports generated by the database are available to anyone, frequently within minutes of the request.

Another source of information is through research projects in cooperation with universities and the US Forest Service. Some examples are: a five-year study on agents responsible for spruce and fir decline in the New England States and New York; pine false webworm management, gypsy moth fungus distribution; and sugarbush health changes. In addition, DEC keeps abreast of research done by others through professional journals and attendance at professional meetings. Special surveys are conducted to obtain information on location, degree of damage, and potential for damage by a specific agent. Examples of such surveys are dogwood anthracnose, butternut canker, oak wilt (it does not occur in New York), gypsy moth fungus, red pine scale, and hemlock wooly adelgid. Forest owners can access results of these surveys to determine conditions in their area.

Additionally, regional maps of forest damage are developed. Information gathered from surveys is recorded on topographic maps which includes the New York Atlas and Gazetteer. Aerial flights are made and ground inspections are conducted to determine the causal agents of the visual damage.

Notable this year is the July 15 wind storm which impacted a large acreage of the Tug Hill and western Adirondack Regions; and the large number of sugar maple trees that died in the southern tier following forest tent caterpillar defoliation in

1994.

And finally, there are many special investigations involving the collection of samples for laboratory analysis, shipment to taxonomists, and inspections by specialists. In one case, the world's renown expert on mistletoes, a parasitic plant, visited the Paul Smith College. He observed eastern dwarf mistletoe on red and black spruces. Subsequently, a separate study revealed that more than half the spruces were infested with the mistletoe.

## MAJOR PEST OUTBREAKS

For large problems such as the 1994-95 forest tent caterpillar outbreak in southern New York, DEC sponsored workshops. DEC staff and **Dr. Douglas Allen**, SUNY, College of Environmental Science and Forestry provided maple growers information on tree protection. DEC and the College also hosted workshops this past summer on protecting eastern white, red, and Scotch pines from pine false webworm.

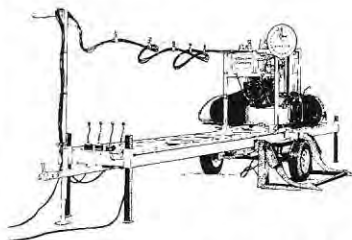
## FOREST HEALTH MANAGEMENT

Most forest protection is accomplished through silviculture. You can regulate forest health through cutting practices. You can change the average diameter by cutting larger or smaller trees, you can cut younger or older trees and change the age of your woods, you can manipulate species composition, and you can preserve or remove trees based on their physical condition or other problems you see. For information on how to manage your forest to best achieve your objectives, contact your local DEC forestry office. Local forestry staff can provide you assistance in many areas such as qualifying land under the Forest Tax Law to prevent confiscatory taxation, direct you to federally subsidized programs for man-



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aging your forest, and provide advice on a wide range of forest protection topics. For example, you might seek advice on what to do about sugar maple mortality following forest tent caterpillar defoliation. You would benefit from learning about the pitfalls of salvage; this knowledge would help you avoid understocking while still capturing most of the value of dying trees.

### CONSERVATION PROJECTS TO IMPROVE FOREST HEALTH

Studies have shown that butternut is dying throughout its range from butternut canker disease. DEC adopted and recommended cutting guidelines developed by the US Forest Service. Landowners can help the species survive by **not** cutting trees that are symptom-free of disease. Similarly, DEC is working with the New York Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation to establish American Chestnut Plantations in every region. Butternut and chestnut are grown at the State Tree Nursery, Saratoga for out plantings. Information acquired on these conservation programs can help make your forest practices contribute to the recovery of species.

### REGULATIONS AS A MEANS TO PROTECT FOREST HEALTH

Often the best protection is through prevention. For this reason, regulations may be in order. Some examples are: When a European strain of scleroderris threatened red and Scotch pines in 13 Adirondack Counties, DEC worked closely with New York State Agriculture and Markets and the USDA APHIS programs to stem the spread of the disease by regulating the movement of Christmas trees that might harbor the disease. DEC administers the white pine blister rust regulation, which establishes districts where the planting of black currant, a primary host of the lethal disease of eastern white pine is prohibited. When the common pine shoot beetle arrived in the United States on dunnage, DEC worked with the Geneva Experiment Station of Cornell University to discover the locations in the state where the beetle occurs. DEC has long assisted NYS Agriculture and Markets in regulating the movement of household articles and timber that might be infested with gypsy moths to prevent its spread and to keep markets for timber open to New York producers. These regulations, while not onerous have helped stem the tide of pests potentially destructive of forest re-

sources while at the same time making conditions favorable for New Yorkers to produce timber and export without external quarantines blocking their products.

One excellent example of how regulation improved the economic climate for New Yorkers is **ginseng** commerce. The New York Ginseng Association requested help from DEC in getting the federal ban on New York ginseng lifted. DEC developed a regulation that established conservation practices, certified ginseng, and permitted dealers. As a result, ginseng can now be exported from New York and more than \$50 million annually is reported.

### HOW INFORMATION GETS TO THE FOREST OWNER

DEC does not maintain a mailing list for forest health information. However, DEC does honor requests for information and a large supply of forest pest leaflets are maintained in the regions. These leaflets are from many sources, primarily the US Forest Service, Cornell University, SUNY/ESF, and other states. To provide information on regionally important pests, DEC recently prepared Pest Alerts on cherry scallop shell moth, pine false webworm, and is preparing a leaflet on pitch pine needle miner. To maintain current information on pesticide controls, forestry staff are provided with annual updates of Pest Management Recommendations for Commercial Production and Maintenance of Trees and Shrubs. DEC periodically produces a forest health report, which summarizes the forest health conditions in the state and provides an historic perspective.

The news media disseminates a great deal of forest health information. Often the media provides the forest owner the first warning of a problem and the department in turn receives requests for more information. A case at point is the chestnut news release, which brought a torrent of calls from folks interested in the recovery work on American Chestnut.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

I have pointed out the work of NYS' Department of Environmental Conservation in forest protection and want to leave you with the message that help is available from DEC. However, it's just a thumb nail sketch. For your part, the best advice I can offer is to walk your woods. Look for changes. Be curious. If you see alarming changes, get more information. For ex-

ample, if you see abundant egg masses on tree bark, defoliation, dieback of tree crowns, or other signs of potentially unhealthy conditions, get more information. DEC will assist you with your forest health needs; **a dedicated and talented workforce is there to help you achieve your resource objectives.**

*Mike Birmingham is a Supervising Forester at NYS DEC, 50 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12233-4253.*

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# SUCCESSFUL FALL MEETING

By Mary and Stuart McCarty

Thanks to a lot of hard work and planning by a number of people the NYFOA Fall Meeting held on September 30 and October 1 was both fun and educational. **Eileen Van Wie** and **Dale Schaefer**, leaders of the Western Finger Lakes Chapter, recruited a stellar team of 24 volunteers to help do the planning and to provide the energy to take care of all the details involved in the meeting.

There wasn't a miscue throughout the event from registration at the headquarters, the Leasure Restaurant & Motor Inn in Lakeville, 25 miles south of Rochester to the dinner and breakfast served by Leasure. The happy scene at registration was enhanced by **Charlie Mowatt's** NYFOA promotion board and his wood sample collection. Active sale of chances for the quilt and the sale of NYFOA items including sweatshirts and T-shirts added to the usual hustle and chatter that makes NYFOA meetings special. Transportation to and from the field trips was handled smoothly and in good humor.



*One stop on our afternoon walk — There were many white pine & Norway spruce plantations planted many years ago - succeeded by hardwoods.*

Over 100 people were sufficiently excited by the announcement in the FOREST OWNER to attend the meeting to hear about, and see, first hand, the forest management activities of **Bruce Robinson**, a private consulting forester, and his associ-

ate, **Barry Cunningham**, on a portion of the 7100 acres owned by the City of Rochester.

The management plan is unique in that the primary objective is to assure high quality water for the city from Canadice and Hemlock Lakes which are part of the acreage. These two lakes, incidentally, are the only Finger Lakes without buildings on the shore line.

One of the prime reasons for Rochester's fine water supply comes from good management of the watershed that we had the pleasure of visiting. On the shores of Hemlock Lake where we had our welcomed lunch break, there were once over a hundred cottages and a hotel! People came by train and over the "Plank Road" (still called that by the locals). Buying out the cottages over a period of time has resulted in complete control of the shoreline. While standing at the water's edge, one gets the feeling of being in the pristine wilderness.

In the afternoon, after a box lunch on the shores of Hemlock Lake, the level of which, by the way, shows the severe effects of the drought, we had a woodswalk in an area away from the lake. The parcel had just been logged, removing 25,000 board feet of timber, mostly red oak, but including some white oak and maple. The logging road was subsequently reworked with a bulldozer and competently constructed with several culverts to avoid erosion and to make the woods more accessible to the public with a no-fee permit for recreational purposes.

Bruce Robinson with a strong second from **Don Root**, the city's watershed conservationist, emphasized that the timber sale and others to come will make it possible for the city to do a number of projects



*Southern end (arrow) of Hemlock lake showing the result of NY's drought.*

## SOME ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE ROCHESTER WATERSHED

\*The proposals designed by the Commission's original plan are currently being followed.

\*Plantations were mostly white pine and Norway spruce.

\*Varying hardwood mixes have supplanted the conifers due to treatments, wind, and ice.

\*Visiting foresters distributed seeds of incidental variety, such as, pin oak and Chinese chestnut, providing some surprising diversity.

\*Because of the steep terrain and a closed canopy, there is little litter on the forest floor and often insignificant understory to hold moisture and soil. Therefore, deliberate effort is made to use slash from logging operations (TSI) to catch and hold litter.

\*Management is complicated by the presence of too much Autumn Olive and dogwood.

\*Gullies, of which there are many, will receive no treatment.



with the 7100 acres that it couldn't otherwise do; such as, making trails for hiking and cross-country skiing and improving the wildlife habitat.

Bruce Robinson's slide show after dinner on Saturday was a good recap of what we saw and heard during the day. Afterwards, door prize drawings gave many in attendance another reason to smile. And finally NYFOA President **Bill Miner** conducted a closely monitored drawing for the beautiful quilt made by Master Quilter



Barry Cunningham pointing out the new cherry crop after both ice storm and logging operation.



Don Root talks about water quality. — Photos by Mary McCarty

**Betty Wagner.** The quilt winner was **Susan Mitchell** of Averill Park, NY. All the members of NYFOA are winners, though, since they will benefit, albeit indirectly, from the over \$5000 raised by the sale of raffle tickets for the quilt.

Congratulations to Eileen Van Wie and Dale Schaefer on a job well done! They and the volunteers from the Western Finger Lakes Chapter did a fabulous job to make the meeting a memorable one. And thanks to Bruce Robinson who carried the program

almost single-handedly!

*Mary (NYFOA President, (1984-85) and Stu (NYFOA President, 1991-93) McCarty were awarded the NYFOA Outstanding Service Award in 1988.*

## NYC Watershed Forest Ad Hoc Task Force

By Dinnie Sloman

Watersheds play such an important role in our lives that I was delighted to attend NYFOA's Fall Meeting in Rochester to learn more about them. The Western Finger Lakes Chapter hosted a well organized tour of the Rochester Watershed, which not only sheds water for the city but also sheds light onto the connection between proper forest management and water quality. I was impressed to see the wide variety of factors that were balanced to achieve not only pure water for the city, but also a working forest providing many other resources to a community. While some foresters, timber harvesters, and landowners may argue that a greater volume of high quality timber could be produced through alternative management schemes, others would applaud the integration of wildlife, recreation, aesthetics, and, soil and water management goals. But in the end, high quality water is the overriding product that the city must deliver.

Decades of research show that well managed forests produce the highest quality water. The Society of American Foresters has compiled this research into a booklet (*Forestry Effects on Water Quality, Reauthorization of the Clean Water Act*, SAF, Bethesda, MD, Feb 1995). It explains that erosion and sediment, the most common form of pollution from timber harvesting, primarily originate from improperly designed roads, skid trails, and landings. Simple procedures, called best management practices (BMPs), can eliminate this source of pollution. Many BMPs were examined and discussed during our tour of the Rochester watershed. These include engineered roads with culverts, water bars and ditches, graded and seeded landings, corduroy stream crossings, and buffer strips. These will help keep the water clean while allowing many other uses of the forest.

Over the past year, I have worked closely on watershed issues. Within the watershed for New York City, many persons with a stake in forest management came together to form the Watershed Forest Ad Hoc Task Force. I am a member of the Executive Steering Committee. During the NYFOA tour, I noticed the many parallels between the two water supply systems. Should any of the readers be interested in the work in the NYC Watershed with which I am familiar, such as the Task Force's *Green Book*, the document which guides our effort, please call me at 914/586-3054.

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# THE SOFT SCALES

by Douglas Allen

The assemblage of organisms referred to as "scales" consists of creatures so unusual in appearance it is difficult to convince people that they are insects. Several families (a family is a taxonomic subdivision of closely related groups of individuals) of these highly modified insects infest forest trees and ornamentals. All are specialized for an immobile life attached to some part of a host from which they remove large amounts of sap. The common name "soft scales" generally refers to members of one family, the Coccidae (cox-i-dee). The variety of forms and colors displayed within the family, however, has resulted in more descriptive common names for certain groups of coccids; for example the wax scales, lecanium scales and tortoise scales.

## DESCRIPTION

Adult coccids are relatively soft-bodied compared to most other scales. Adult females of the most commonly encountered species are either slug-like (Fig. 3) or resemble a piece of popcorn (Fig. 1). Males are unknown for most species, and even when known are rarely seen.

Adult females do not have wings, legs or antennae, and their bodies lack the distinct segmentation typical of other insects. For most species, dispersal is accomplished by the first stage nymph (the immature that hatches from the egg). This stage is called a "crawler", because usually it is the only immature stage of soft scales that has functional legs. The tiny crawlers can survive several days without feeding and can move



Fig. 2. Pine tortoise scale. Note sooty mold fungus at bases of needles (arrows).

surprisingly long distances on the host plant or from one plant to another.

## FEEDING BEHAVIOR

Scales have very fine, threadlike mouthparts called stylets, which are inserted through the bark of a twig or the skin of a leaf or fruit and used like a straw to extract host sap. Because plant sap contains excessive quantities of sugar and water, far more than these insects need for nutritional purposes, scales have a specialized digestive system which allows large amounts of this sweet mixture to bypass the stomach. This material, called "honeydew", is quickly excreted and often covers plant parts (and vehicles parked beneath infested trees!), creating a sticky surface and giving foliage and bark a spotted or shiny appearance. Fre-

quently, ants and wasps are attracted to honeydew and utilize it as a food source. Sooty mold fungi also may take advantage of this substance as a source of energy.

## EXAMPLES

Three species of soft scales that the forest owner is likely to encounter are cottony maple scale, tuliptree scale and the pine tortoise scale. The general appearance of these examples typifies many of the common soft scales.

The most conspicuous stage of **cottony maple scale** looks like a piece of popcorn attached to maple twigs or the twigs of several other eastern hardwoods, including species frequently used as ornamentals. The female is flat and usually less than 1/4" in dia. with a median ridge. It is reddish-brown and often possesses a large, white egg sac that can be twice as big as the insect (Fig.1). Eggs are deposited beneath this waxy covering in early spring. Newly hatched nymphs (the crawlers) leave twigs in early summer and move to foliage where all nymphal stages feed. Adult females move back onto twigs in early fall to overwinter. At this time, they are not accompanied by an egg sac and are inconspicuous. They become more obvious by late spring or early summer after egg sacs have been produced. Rarely is cottony maple scale abundant enough to damage woodlot maples.

**Pine tortoise scale** prefers scots, jack and Virginia pines but also occurs on red and white pines. This species can be especially troublesome in Christmas tree plantations. The convex (slug-like) adults are approximately 1/4" in dia., dark reddish-brown or black, and marked on the back

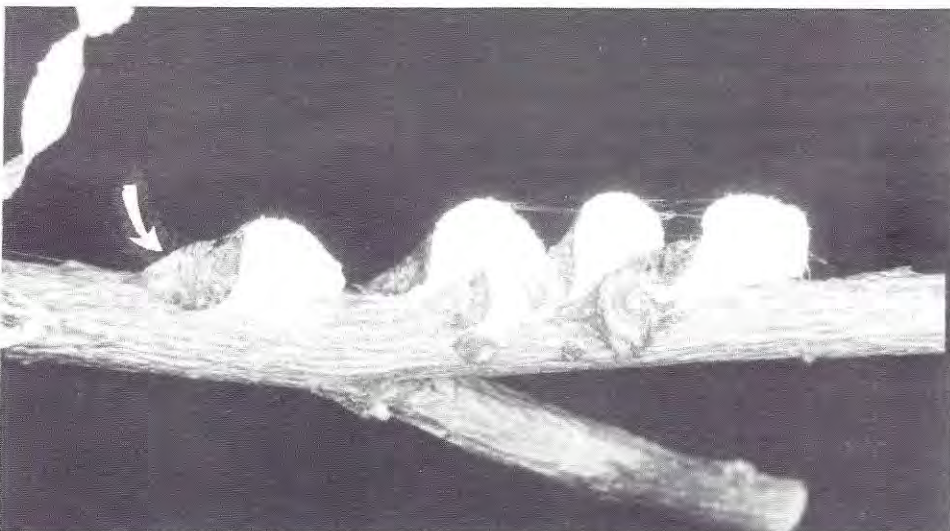


Fig. 1. Cottony maple scales (brown objects) with egg sacs. Arrow indicates the front ("head") end of a scale.



with reddish or cream colored blotches or spots (mottled) (Fig.2). The latter impart a "tortoise shell" appearance, hence the common name. It spends its life on twigs of seedlings and saplings. Adult females overwinter on host twigs where they deposit eggs in early spring.

Like the two previous examples, **tuliptree scale** is native to eastern North America. It prefers twigs and stems of yellow poplar and magnolia. Heavy infestations are common and the large (1/4" to 1/2" in dia.), convex, grayish-green to light orange adult females are very conspicuous (Fig.3). This species overwinters as an immature (nymph) on host twigs.

**DAMAGE**

Heavy scale populations have the potential to kill the host, especially young plants. Generally, however, scale feeding results in chlorotic (yellowish) foliage, dead twigs, sometimes early leaf fall, and/or extensive growth of a sooty mold fungus that devel-



Fig. 3. A cluster of tulip-tree scales.

ops on the honeydew. This mold may be heavy enough on foliage to inhibit photosynthesis. Generally, however, its principle effect is to detract from aesthetic quality, because the black mold coats twigs and foliage making the plant look as if dusted with charcoal.

**MANAGEMENT**

It is impractical to consider chemical

control of soft scales under forest conditions. However, heavy infestations in pine plantations (e.g., pine tortoise scale) or on ornamentals (many species, including all three examples described above) may require action to preserve the value and/or appearance of the host.

When chemical control is required, timing of the application is critical. Crawlers are most vulnerable to chemical control because of their mobility and exposure, which enhance the likelihood that they will contact spray droplets. Pine tortoise scale crawlers are present in late June and those of the cottony maple scale appear in late June to early July. Crawlers of tuliptree scale, on the other hand, emerge from eggs and search for feeding sites in late August to mid-September. In all cases, the chemical is applied to infested bark of twigs or stems.

I thank Kim Adams, Extension Specialist at the College of Environmental Science and Forestry, for commenting on this article.

*This is the 23rd in the series of articles contributed by Dr. Allen, Professor of Forest Entomology at SUNY/ESF.*

**HONORED**

**Fred E. Winch, Jr.**, of Warner Road, Bradford, N.H., is one of seven recipients of the 1995 Outstanding Alumni Award from the Alumni Association of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University in Ithaca.

Maple syrup and the name Fred Winch are synonymous in New York. Serving as the state's Extension Forester for more than 30 years, Winch almost single-handedly established the state's maple syrup industry.

Winch joined the college as an extension instructor in 1943 and was later appointed assistant professor and then associate professor. He used his wide knowledge of maple syrup production and marketing to help establish New York as a major producer of maple syrup. Every year, he conducted more than a dozen "Maple Schools" in the state's maple-producing areas. An experienced forester specializing in woodlot management, he also worked extensively with Christmas tree growers throughout the state.

At Cornell, Winch held a number of positions, including director of Arnot Forest, associate director of Cooperative Extension, and acting chair and extension leader of the Department of Natural Resources. He acquired a wide reputation for his efforts in public forestry education and his teaching of young people, especially through 4-H and Future Farmers of America.

In 1971 NYFOA awarded Fred Winch the Heiberg Memorial Award.



**NYS DEC Region 7 Celebrates 100 Years of NYS' Fish & Wildlife Service**



*NYS DEC Senior Forester Steve Davison holds Commemorative White Ash tree prior to planting. Steve, who serves private forest owners of Cayuga County in addition to particular supervision of Regional State Lands, dedicated the tree to Henry Brodnicki who suffered a fatal stroke while servicing a cooperating forest owner in Cayuga County.*

The Cortland Office of NYS DEC Region 7 declared an Open House for the public September 16, 1995. There were many exhibits and several presentations. Of particular attention was a demonstration of how Biologists use the explosive-driven nets to capture upland game birds from baited areas.

This effort was not funded by the Department; but represented volunteer efforts

by the dedicated professionals who are proud of their work and the history and accomplishments of New York State's Fish and Wildlife management for the past 100 years.

The effort was also supported by personnel from the Region's Land & Forest. Lfee Signor represented the U.S. Civilian Conservation Corps & Dick Fox, the Cayuga Chapter, NYFOA.



# NY's Corps of Master Forest Owner/COVERTS Volunteers Tops 130!

By Gary Goff

The fourth class of NY Master Forest Owner/COVERTS volunteers were certified this September, bringing the total number of volunteers to 130 statewide. Enthusiasm ran high in this year's new class of 30 to fulfill their mission to "motivate and encourage neighbor forest owners to manage their forest holdings wisely". One volunteer summed up the training workshop as "...one of the real educational experiences of my life. Fantastic! Really makes me want to learn more and especially to make great use of what I've learned."

New York's program is similar to those conducted in about a dozen states nationwide where qualified, experienced forest owners are given specific training on a variety of "forestry" topics with the overall goal to interact with their neighbors on a peer basis to promote forest stewardship. NY's volunteers are available to meet with any forest owner in their woodlot typically for a half-day tour and discussion. The Master Forest Owners (MFOs) are not professional foresters nor do they provide any service beyond providing personal insight and sources of assistance depending on the forest owner's needs. As such, however, MFOs fill an important niche in Cooperative Extension's overall forest education programs. A survey of forest owners who had been visited by MFOs showed that the value of the information received from the MFOs was rated an average 4.2 on a 5.0 scale!

This year's 3-day training, held at



David Swaciak, (left) Cornell Cooperative Extension Aide from Cattaraugus County, leads a field exercise on tree identification as part of the 1995 MFO/COVERTS training at Cornell's Arnot Forest.

Henry Huizinga, (right) of Finger Lakes Firewood, addresses the 1995 class of MFO/COVERTS volunteers regarding the importance of written contracts and good communications between loggers and forest owners.

\*\*\*

Cornell University's Arnot Teaching and Research Forest, included a variety of presentations on topics such as forest ecology, forest economics, forest soils, communication techniques, wildlife ecology and management, and most importantly, sources of financial and technical assistance. Presenters included Cornell professors, a Cooperative Extension County agent, NYS DEC state foresters, consultant and industry foresters, a local surveyor, a local logger and previously certified MFOs. One field trip was to the Coastal Lumber Co. sawmill at Cayuta, NY where



the volunteers reviewed the importance of log grades, toured the mill operation and learned of company policy.

NY's Master Forest Owner/COVERTS Program is funded by The Ruffed Grouse Society, the NY Forest Stewardship Program and the NY Renewable Resources Extension Program, with cooperation from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Lands and Forests and the NY Forest Owners Association. Thanks, at least in part, to this year's class of volunteers who forfeited mileage reimbursement, the program will continue through another year and training workshop, despite budget cuts primarily from federal sources.

For a complete listing of MFOs in your area, contact your Cornell Cooperative Extension County Office or your Regional NYS DEC Forestry Office. For more information on the program or to learn how to apply to become a MFO volunteer, contact Gary Goff, Program Director, Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853 (607)255-2824.



Ron Pedersen, 1993 MFO/COVERTS volunteer, addresses the 1995 class on the subject of Timber Trespass. The training workshop included a blend of indoor presentations and outdoor exercises.



## Listing by County of MFO/COVERTS Volunteers attending the Sept. 1995 Training

### Albany County

Bob Greenman  
18 Sunset Dr.  
Delmar, NY 12054  
518-439-5057

### Broome County

Jerry Michael  
#12 Meadowood Ln.  
Binghamton, NY 13901  
607-648-2941

Richard Molyneux  
217 Sherder Road  
Endicott, NY 13760  
607-748-4251

### Cattaraugus County

Michael Ostrowski  
90 W. Maplemere  
Amherst, NY 14221  
716-632-3587

### Chautauqua County

Dr. Robert C. Kochersberger  
18 Lester St.  
Sinclairville, NY 14782  
716-962-4385

Bob Glidden  
544 Homestead Dr.  
No. Tonawanda, NY 14120  
716-693-4870

Gale E. Sauer  
5840 Damon Hill Rd.  
Sinclairville, NY 14782  
716-962-9585

### Chenango County

Robert J. Smith  
77 East State St.  
Sherburne, NY 13460  
607-674-9229

### Columbia County

Al Cibelli  
101 Old Mamaroneck Rd., Apt. 301  
White Plains, NY 10605  
914-946-1385

### Dutchess County

Robert C. Davidge  
89 Oriole Mills Road  
Rhinebeck, NY 12572  
914-758-0330

### Erie County

Bob Preston  
450 Spruce Wood Terrace  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
716-632-5862

Roy Emerling  
Box 204  
Boston, NY 14025  
716-667-7270

### Lewis County

Don Colton  
5595 E. Trinity Avenue  
Lowville, NY 13367  
315-376-5595

### Livingston County

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Wayland, NY 14572  
716-728-5783

### Monroe County

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7015 4th Section Rd.  
Brockport, NY 14420  
716-637-4809

Ron Freese

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Rochester, NY 14607  
716-244-2049

### Oneida County

Ron Chauncey  
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Blossvale, NY 13308  
315-245-0296

### Oswego County

Richard Schoeck  
132 Holst Rd.  
Bernhards Bay, NY 13028  
315-675-3690

### Otsego County

Jim Curtis  
24 Chester St.  
Andover, MA 01810  
508-470-1293

### Schuyler County

George Bulin  
2529 Jennings Road  
Watkins Glen, NY 14891  
607-535-7055

Richard Hunt  
Hunt's Tree Farm  
Stilwell Rd.  
Trumansburg, NY 14886  
607-387-9399

### Tompkins County

Dan Evett  
325 S. Geneva St.  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
607-277-3979

Diana Taber  
14 Taggart Rd.  
Newfield, NY 14867  
607-564-1082

### Ulster County

Ray Vaughan  
PO Box 258  
Stone Ridge, NY 12484  
914-687-9165

Mark C. Desmery  
PO Box 517  
Fishkill, NY 12524  
914-255-7758

### Wayne County

Eugene Stephens  
7434 Knickerbocker Rd.  
Ontario, NY 14519  
315-524-8305

Donald MacDougall  
4140 Dix St.  
Rose, NY 14542  
315-587-2773

Jim Miller  
6415 N. Geneva Rd.  
Sodus, NY 14551  
315-483-8454

### Yates County

George Gardner  
179 W. Lk. Road  
Penn Yan, NY 14527  
315-536-9650

## TREE SHELTER FEEDBACK

In a recent conversation with John Solan, manager of the NYS Saratoga Tree Nursery, some observations of Nurserymen from the *midwest* were relayed, in regards to the use of tree shelters. It should be kept in mind that these are observations, NOT formal research, are related to midwest weather and growing conditions, and relate primarily to their use in seed orchards and other high quality hardwoods.

1) Gypsy moth, forest tent caterpillars, etc. get trapped inside and the resultant defoliation goes undetected.

2) Birds often get trapped inside which **requires** netting over the top to prevent this.

3) The tree shelters do not seem to break down as expected and can result in girdling a tree when a solid tube is used.

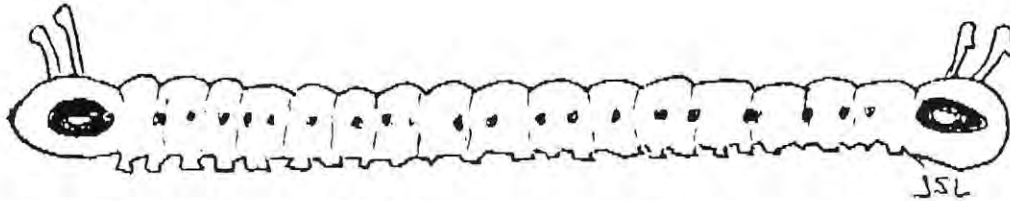
4) The main stem is not developing the needed strength and rigidity to support the future top growth above the tree shelter, resulting in breakage from wind, ice, etc.

*The above was excerpted from SE Adirondack Chapter, NYFOA Newsletter, John Hastings, Editor.*



# SOME BUGGY MANAGEMENT

By Jane Sorensen Lord, Phd,OTR,ND



Tobacco Horn Worm

It was green, sort of metallic looking, a cross between jade and emerald. It was as big as my index finger - big enough to cause a startle response on first glance. It had small spots down its sides, and eyes at each end with extraterrestrial knobs over each eye. And in a day it ate a whole bunch of my Valerian!

As a rule, herbs are pest resistant. But this summer, with the long drought, our herb gardens had more than their fair share of intruders.

Eight years ago after we planted our first Christmas Trees, a small red oak near the field was attacked by gypsy moth caterpillars. Not willing to sacrifice the ten foot sapling, I raced to the local feed and garden store to research the package sides of all the pesticides and chose Malathion. I sprayed the tree copiously. I came back three days later and the caterpillars were gone. But I found, one hundred feet away from the oak in one direction and seventy-five feet away in the other, the corpses of the pair of bluebirds we had enticed to stay on our land with new nest boxes. Their babies were eaten by and their nest box was full of thumbnail-size yellow beetles, which sort of swarmed out, falling and running in all directions when I opened the box.

Let Mother Nature handle the whole deal on her own, I decided on the spot. I didn't like the loop I precipitated - from gypsy moth caterpillars to carrion beetles!

But that decision made years ago meant I had to stand up to the giant green metallic caterpillar on my own, eyeballs to eyeballs.. I decided the thing would not bite, sting, or wrap itself around my arm like a python; so I gingerly plucked it off, put it in a jar, and took it inside to identify it. My literature search identified a Tobacco Horn worm (an interloper all the way from Kentucky!? - Valerian must be related to tobacco).

I took the thing far from my garden, way back under our white pine stand, and released it. Nothing likes living under the pines. Within seconds one of the cats who had been following me, leaped on and ate half of the caterpillar. At least it doesn't intimidate all predators.

I felt better when I went back to the garden to assess the damage objectively. Under the leaves of the remaining valerian, were three more Horn worms. But these were shrunken to about an inch in length. They were covered with the larvae of a wasp, which suck life nutrients from the caterpillar's body. The dying caterpillars

continue to eat the plant, but not a substantial amount. I just left them.

I turned my attention to my seven foot high blooming angelica. I noticed lady bugs, a beneficial insect. On closer look the undersides of the flowers were covered with aphids. The lady bugs were doing their best, but I thought the aphids were far too plentiful for the lady bugs to control; so I plucked the most infected bloom and shook the bugs into vegetable oil and water.

When I cut the flower, I noticed a baby praying mantis on the leaf notch below. The poor moisture-loving angelica was really in trouble! Indeed, it died early after seeding prolifically, as do many trees when under stress.

We had a lot of "tank" bugs throughout the gardens this past dry season. Medium sized brown bugs that behave like little tanks, walking up and down stalks and over leaves stopping for nothing but to eat smaller bugs.

A lot of my plants bloomed later than usual and will get hit by frost before they can go to seed. Calendula usually starts to bloom in July; this year they started in September; or they came and went very fast. The Echinacea blackened with the first light frost. But overall, the garden did well enough. And the bugs helped, were maybe key.

So, it was with great pleasure, I proffered a rescue stick to a praying mantis who had slipped and upturned on a piece of black agricultural plastic. He kept hold gratefully as I carted him to a Cleome in my largest bed. He had a great menu to select from there. I thought, "I hope you stay." And I swear he waved a pincer as I walked away.

*Dr. Jane, a Master Forest Owner, 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.*

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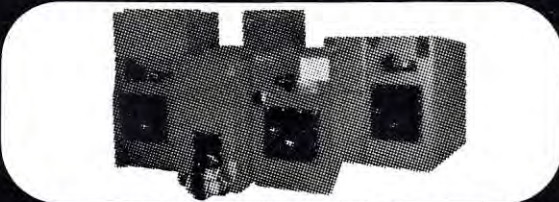
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**NOV 2:** CFA; 10 AM; Paul Steinfeld & 35 years Forest Management; 914/586-3054.

**NOV 13-14:** THE EMPIRE STATE: CHANGES AND CHALLENGES; Syracuse; 315/470-6539.

**NOV 18:** NFC; 10AM; Herschell Carousel Factory Museum; N. Tonawanda; 716/874-4074.

**JAN 13:** SEA; Skiing/snowshoeing; Schreiner's woodlot; 518/798-0248

**APR 27:** NYFOA ANNUAL SPRING MEETING; Marshall Hall, SUNY/ESF; Syracuse

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- BLOWDOWNS AND INSECTS**  
 By Douglas Allen, SUNY/ESF
- RIVER OTTER RESTORATION**  
 By Robert Gotie, NYS DEC
- WETLANDS**  
 By Raymond Nolan