

The New York
FOREST OWNER

A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association

January/February 1996



Tree soldiers stand against the dark,
Wedded by webs of leafless limbs,
Tiny shadows about their snowy feet
In lines that bear no retreat.

The need of spring is in their hearts;
Limbs without leaves will green anew,
But until the winter spends its reign,
Stark soldiers of night they will remain.

Night
Soldiers

**THE NEW YORK
FOREST OWNERS
ASSOCIATION**

**VOL. 34, NO. 1
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COVER: *NIGHT SOLDIERS*, one of a photographic series entitled "Winterscapes" by Patricia Kay © 1986. The poem is a collaboration by Dorothy Darling. See page 14.

FOREST OWNER

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The "Cow Shed"



Fillmore Glen State Park in Winter, site of the Cayuga Chapter's Cabin Fever Festival, see page 19.

Photo by A. Signor.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Miner

In the last message I mentioned that I had been invited to represent NYFOA at a SUNY/ESF conference to be held this past November 13-14 in Syracuse. The title of the conference was: "The Empire Forest: Changes and Challenges" and was to focus on the recent data reported in the 1993 U.S. Forest Service Inventory. I was to participate as a respondent to an afternoon session on Forest Policy.

When **Walt Aikman**, program chairman, approached me regarding this meeting, I readily accepted seeing this as an opportunity to inform members of the forest industry, faculty, and other attendees of the existence of NYFOA. As background information on this conference, Walt sent me abstracts that the afternoon presenters had prepared and also a copy of "Forest Statistics for New York: 1980 and 1993" wherein the Forest Service Inventory data is compiled and compared. This is a daunting publication packed with charts and tables which describe statistically New York forest lands in detail that is, for the most part, overwhelming.

In the two weeks before the conference, I prepared a formal presentation, the first half of which was devoted to NYFOA; and the second addressing an issue that may have a profound impact on future forest-land policy.

I arrived at the Hotel Syracuse for the conference registration, signed in, and explained to the program committee that I had to go to my office for a couple of morning meetings and would return before lunch. (*Enter Stage left: FATE*) When I arrived at the office my staff informed me that I had a call from my older brother Tim in Rochester. Something was wrong; I immediately called him to hear that our mother was seriously ill and not responding to therapy. It was the doctor's advice that the family come to mother's side as soon as possible. A quick call to Clara and my children, a rush to the hotel to explain the situation...Clara and I arrive in Rochester early that afternoon. I am pleased to tell you that within a few days my mother recovered but is still in guarded condition.

Well, the SUNY/ESF conference came and went and my presentation was collecting dust in my briefcase. In reviewing this material it came to mind that some of the

information that I have collected regarding NYFOA members has never been published in the pages of THE FOREST OWNER. There has not been a recent full membership survey conducted; however, the Western Finger Lakes Chapter and the Central New York Chapter have conducted surveys. I put together a CNY chapter survey about three years ago that was modeled on the survey conducted by WFL. The two surveys were completed by about two hundred members and give us a narrow view of some of the characteristics of our members. This survey information was to be the first part of my presentation:

Acres of forest Land Owned	
Acres	#Members
<50	46
51-100	37
101-150	21
151-200	10
201-250	25
>500	5

* Age of Members?: 39%, <50 years; 61% >50 years. Of the group >50 years, 30% are retired and over the age of 60.

* What are the most important issues related to forest ownership?: Taxes and land ownership rights.

The pre-conference information provided me with the facts that New York forest lands have increased 23% since 1953 with significant increases in volume in the major species found in this state; that the annual net growth is three times the annual removal; and that there are no major diseases endangering the forest. Overall, a good report card.

Our forest resources appear to be under reasonable management by land owners in this state. If there is a threat to the forest it comes from a slow "social shift" in the general public's attitude of "best use" of forestland. Three treasures of hominid that have carried over into modern times are fire, stone, and wood. Throughout our history wood has been a resource that has provided shelter, heat, utensils, tools, and vessels to explore our world. If we look around our homes today, we all have these wooden treasures. What most of our society has lost is the individual relationship and direct dependence on forests and forest products. Like it or not, most of our children are

taught in school that cutting trees is bad. I would, also, venture to guess that the majority of the public believes that trees in this state are in danger of being overharvested.

Who will own the forest lands in the future? Our data regarding age of members suggest that in the near future 50% of our members will turn over ownership due to retirements from active management or death. These lands in today's real estate market will most likely sell at a premium. Only wealthy people will have the ability to purchase these lands. Where will the buyers come from, most likely from major cities where most of the nation's wealth is concentrated? I am concerned that these new urban owners may have a much different set of values regarding forest management from that of the current owners. Will our news media be reporting that a local citizen's group is blocking timber harvest on "your" land because the harvest is destroying "their" environment? Will the best use of forestland be a "view shed"? Will local ordinances become so restrictive and costly that your timber harvest will have little or no economic value? These conditions have happened and may worsen.

This brings me to the last point of my presentation, the education of the public and NYFOA membership where quality forest management will yield benefits to owners and the public at large. **Education is one of the prime objectives of NYFOA which can help lead this state to rational policy decisions on protecting the environment, preserving land owners' "right to harvest", and set the standards for the best use of our forestlands.**

I will end by thanking Dick Fox for standing-in for me at the conference and representing NYFOA.



THE SEVENTH AMERICAN FOREST CONGRESS

many voices, a common vision

Introduction

The Seventh American Forest Congress builds on a rich history as reported in THE FOREST OWNER, Nov/Dec 1995. This particular congress was prompted by a recognition that 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. 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 or conferences will be held in each state to solicit state-specific information that will form the basis for the national discussion. The recent 2-day conference in Syracuse, one of several in New York, focused on the US Forest Survey which was completed in 1993 (sample of data, Fig. 1). The interactions of the various presenters, panelists, and attendees have been summarized for the Washington Congress by the Faculty of SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry:

Figure 1
Private Forest Landowners,
Numbers and Acres, by Size-Class

Acres Owned	Number of Owners	Total Acres
1-9	247,000	843,000
10-49	158,800	3,596,000
50-99	37,200	2,562,000
100-499	30,800	4,840,000
500-999	1,200	642,000
1,000+	500	1,884,000
All size classes	475,400	14,367,000

*As compiled by the U.S.
Forest Service Survey for 1993.*

EMPIRE FOREST VISIONS

Summary Contribution to the Seventh American Forest Congress

based on discussion sessions at

THE EMPIRE FOREST: CHANGES AND CHALLENGES CONFERENCE

November 13 -14, 1995

VISION

In a generation or two our forest will be:

Sustainable: a place where society's biophysical and socioeconomic needs are in long-term harmony with natural processes.

Diverse: made up of a wide range of land ownerships, goals, and management practices.

Inclusive: where people's ideas, communities, homes, and property are part of the physical and political landscape.

PRINCIPLES

Our vision should be guided by:

A commitment to democratic deliberation: forestry opportunities and problems must be confronted and defined by an informed, critically thinking, and active set of stake holders who will be given the time and support needed to forge lasting networks of responsible action.

A respect for posterity: forest stewardship must be embraced as a fundamental basis for ensuring the long-term production and protection of both market and non- market forest values.

A balance of rights and responsibilities: property owners have rights to practice forestry, and these rights and their related responsibilities must be as clearly stated, understood, and respected.

NEXT STEPS

To move forward, individuals and organizations must embrace:

Education: we will use new technologies and delivery systems - from high technology and field trips to teacher training - to reach school children, non-industrial private forest landowners, governmental agency personnel, urban populations, decision makers, and foresters to educate future decision makers and address the societal changes necessary to sustain forests for future generations.

Partnerships: we will foster and promote broad understanding, consensus, and cooperation between a wide range of stakeholders including not-for-profit land conservation organizations, non-industrial private forest landowners, government agencies, colleges and universities, local communities, recreational users, and industry.

Knowledge: we will encourage the creation, testing, and sharing of new knowledge, and seek to apply what we have learned through responsible decision making processes that recognize our scientific and institutional limitations.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

Private property rights: what are they, what are their limits, and what will they be in the future?

How can we balance local interest and needs with national environmental and natural resource priorities?

Property taxes are a liability for landowners: what incentives can be created to keep forest land?

What framework can be developed for compensating landowners for non-commercial values vested in their land?

TIMBER TAXES

By David J. Colligan

A reader of THE FOREST OWNER wrote to the editor recently and requested that more articles be devoted to the subject of timber taxes. Since there are a variety of tax laws that apply to timber, your author decided to write about the proposed new capital gains tax and how it affects forest owners. However, due to the current mess in Washington, at the time this article goes to publication, your author chooses not to look like a fool by writing about the capital gains law as it exists now or might exist in the future when by the time you read this, the law could be completely different.

In lieu of writing about hot new tax topics, this article will remind you that record keeping and timber lot management must go hand in hand. As forest owners, there are a myriad of expenses associated with the ownership and cultivation of a forest crop. The expenses include consulting for-ester fees, professional advisors' fees, travel expenses, work shop registrations, purchase of tools and equipment, TSI expenses, labor expenses, and other expenses that are generally grouped together as "operating" expenses. Some forest owners also pay mortgage payments and separate insurance payments for their forest land. These expenses combined with property taxes are generally referred to as "carrying costs".

Both operating and carrying costs that are considered to be "ordinary and necessary" expenses of managing, maintaining and protecting, and conserving forest land may be eligible for deduction in the current year, even if the woodland has produced no income during that year.

Rules on whether current deductions can be taken for expenses related to woodland management are very complex and you should consult your tax advisor as to deductibility. The general rule is that current deductions related to woodland owners are permitted only if the taxpayer can show that the activity is either business or an investment that was entered into for the purpose of making a profit. Otherwise, the expenses are considered a "hobby" and can only be deducted to the extent of income. Under the "hobby farm" rules developed by the Internal Revenue Code under Paragraph 183, there must be a demonstrative profit motive in the enterprise. The term "profit" includes appreciation of the value of the assets or, in the case of growing timber, an

increase in the potential for appreciation caused by tree growth.

Under the passive loss rules, each taxpayer associated with the enterprise must determine whether they are a material participant or a non-material participant/passive owner. The passive loss rules greatly restrict deductible expenses since you must have passive income in order to deduct passive expenses (loss). Check with your tax advisor regarding all of the above rules used to determine these classifications.

Different rules apply to owners of timberland who are owning it for "investment" purposes only. Passive loss rules do not apply, but there are certain limitations regarding the deductibility of mortgage interest and there are no deductions allowed if the taxpayer has not itemized his or her deductions on their tax return.

The last method to recover your management expenses is to capitalize the expenses on this year's return with the understanding that they are not deductible until such time as there is income generated by the investment upon which the deductions can be taken. It is very important to understand that capitalized expenses must be declared on the current year's tax return to be deducted on a future tax return. Therefore, those deductions not declared will be lost!

In conclusion, it is very important that you begin to compile the necessary documentation for taking timber related deductions on your 1995 tax return right now. Receipts for any expenses related to your woodlot should be gathered, segregated, and filed. It is also very important that the hours spent working on your woodlot be compiled and kept as a regular business record. It is much easier to reconstruct time spent on your woodlot in 1995 in diary form at this time than it is to go back, when you are audited several years later, to reconstruct work including: site preparation, planting, pruning, timber stand improvement (TSI), cultivating, insect control, property boundary inspections, and other related property management tasks completed in the past year. Your tax preparer will guide you as to how you can handle woodlot deductions on your 1995 return.

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

Quilt Raffle Winner



Barry Cornell of the Capital District Chapter, NYFOA, presents quilt to Susan Mitchell of Averill Park. She bought winning the ticket at Woodsman's Field Days in Boonville.

Photo by Jill Cornell.

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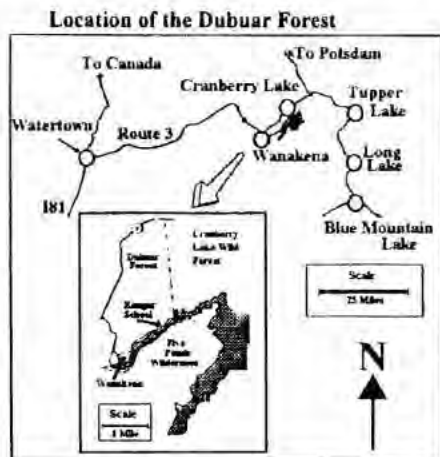
How The 1995 Microburst Storm Changed the Structure of the Dubuar Forest.

By Michael R. Bridgen and Tom Nelson

INTRODUCTION

On July 15, 1995, weather patterns combined to produce a brief series of storms across northern New York. The storms travelled eastwardly from southern Ontario, causing severe damage across northern New York and the Adirondack Mountains. About one million acres of land were affected by the "microburst" storm.

The James F. Dubuar Memorial Forest was one area damaged by the storm. The Dubuar Forest lays within the Adirondack Park and is adjacent to the Five Ponds Wilderness Area, an area severely damaged by the storm [see NYFO N/D 95, 4]. It is an educational and demonstration forest managed by SUNY's College of Environmental Science and Forestry. It serves as the primary location for the forest technology program, commonly called the Ranger School, and has been intensively managed for forest products since the early 1900s.



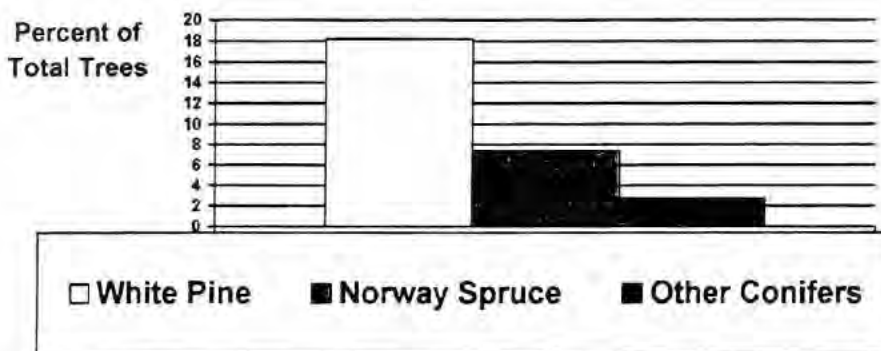
An analysis of the Dubuar Forest began shortly after the forest roads were cleared. Of its 2800 acres, severe damage was identified on about 350 acres. About 100 acres were totally flattened by the storm, including about 40 acres of white pine stands and 60 acres of hardwoods. Much of the rest of the forest suffered some damage, including branch and top breakage, uprooting, and knockdown of individual trees or patches of trees. Following the initial analysis, a salvage operation was initiated to remove large amounts of damaged timber and

restore the Forest to an operable condition. Harvesting prescriptions were established for various stands throughout the Forest, allowing for rapid and efficient cleanup, as well as maintaining forest productivity and future educational opportunities. The salvage operation was facilitated by a good road system throughout the Forest, and

were destroyed on the Ranger School and Dubuar Forest.

The term "a lot" is a relative term. For the crew who cleaned up the campus, forest roads, and general mess, there were a lot of trees. And when you drive by the forest and see all of the "holes" in the forest canopy, it appears to be a lot of trees.

Figure 1. Percent of white pine, Norway spruce, and other softwoods on the Dubuar Forest destroyed by the microburst storm of July 15, 1995



good spacing between trees.

Wind storms are natural components, or events, within forest ecosystems. The forest will respond as it must to any natural disturbance. And storms may have beneficial effects upon a forest, as perceived by humans. For example, they may destroy older, dying, or decaying trees, and provide opportunities for new stand establishment, or regeneration. Individual trees may respond to openings in the stand, with increased growth rates, especially in diameter growth. Species composition may change, including wildlife and non-woody plant populations. Regardless of what changes do occur, they will affect forest growth, development and use, perhaps for decades or longer.

RESULTS

The storm brought down a lot of trees! We have calculated that about 30,000 trees

But from the standpoint of the forest, it really wasn't a lot of trees. Only about 9 percent of the total trees on the forest were destroyed. Since most of these trees were in larger diameter classes, about 12% of the total canopy was "opened up". Many of the destroyed trees were found in specific compartments where the greatest damage occurred. Although storm damage has been found throughout the Forest, most of it was localized on certain slopes and aspects, due to the direction of the storm.

Certain species were hit harder than others. Among conifers, white pine was the most damaged (Figure 1). Hardwoods had slightly greater losses, especially in black cherry (Figure 2).

Two plantation white pine stands were destroyed. These included some very large trees. The average diameter of the felled white pine trees was over 17 inches, compared to 12 inches for the surviving trees.

We also lost a lot of black cherry trees, especially around Cathedral Rock, near the center of the Forest. The cherry had been managed for sawtimber production and had reached pretty good sizes. Unfortunately, the storm grabbed hold of the biggest crowns and pushed these trees over. In the hardwood stands, the biggest trees happened to be black cherry.

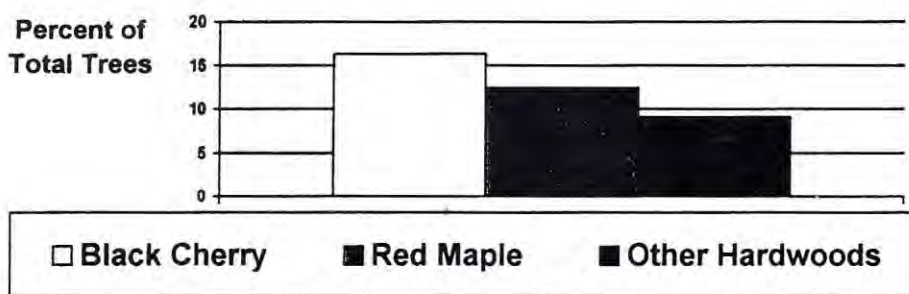
stroyed. Some of you may be familiar with the oldest red pine timber stand north of the Reservoir, along the old "north boundary" of the forest. There was very little damage in this stand, even though its neighboring white pine stand was totally destroyed. Perhaps this species managed to escape the storm because of chance geographic factors. Perhaps its branching pattern allowed

less resistance to the wind. Or perhaps because it grows on drier sites, its root systems had greater resistance. **Whatever the reason, we have to consider red pine a most suitable alternative to planting white pine again.**

Plans for regenerating the Forest are being made now. New age classes will become established. The severely damaged pine stands will probably be replanted to softwoods. The better hardwood sites have been completely clearcut to allow faster regeneration of black cherry. Other sites will be examined, one-by-one, to determine what best can be done with them. We can't work miracles and bring the former forest back. But we can set into motion a series of planned events, combining technical, financial and labor resources, which will allow the eventual regeneration of a new forest for future Ranger School students.

Dr. Bridgen is an assistant professor of forestry at the Ranger School. Tom Nelson is a former Ranger School student from East Amherst, NY.

Figure 2. Percent of black cherry, red maple, and other hardwoods on the Dubuar Forest destroyed by the microburst storm of July 15, 1995.



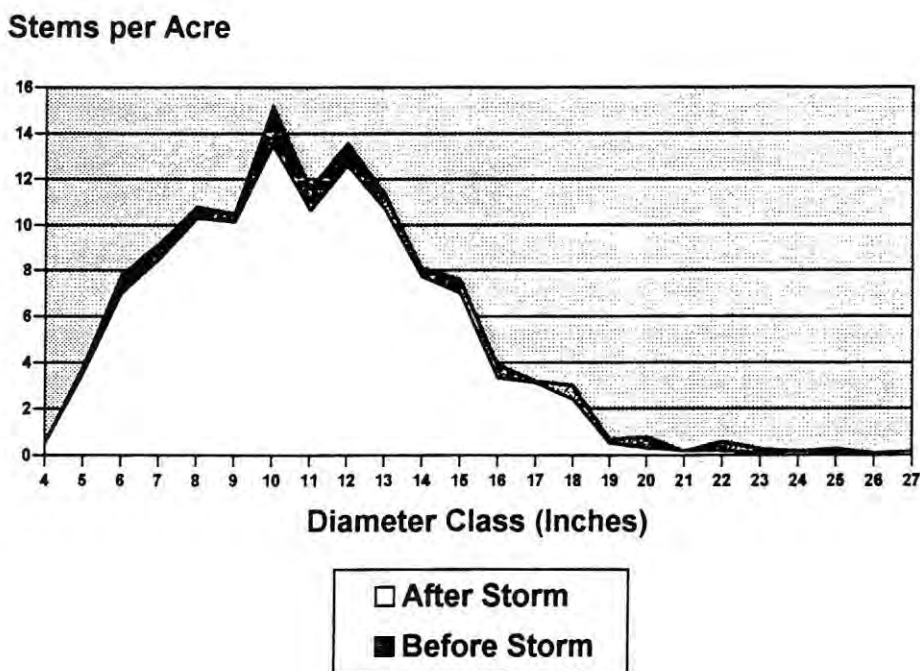
From a silviculture point-of-view, the storm acted very similarly to a "thinning-from-above" operation, or crown thinning operation. It reduced the average diameter of the forest trees from 11.1 inches to 11.0 inches. This doesn't seem like much, but in order to get that much change, the average destroyed tree had a diameter of 12.5 inches. Figure 3 shows how the diameter distribution of trees changed on the Dubuar Forest following the storm.

The reduction of overall stocking of the Forest is similar to what we might get following a planned thinning operation:

	<u>Stems per Acre</u>	<u>Basal Area (ft²/acre)</u>
Before Storm	124	93
After Storm	115	82

You might be interested to know about one "survivor" species. Red pine fared quite well during this weather "event". Although red pine makes up over seventeen percent of the total number of trees on the Forest, and most of them are quite old, only three percent of the red pine timber was de-

Figure 3. Diameter distribution of trees within the James F. Dubuar Memorial Forest both before and after the July 15, 1995 Microburst storm.



LIFE WITHOUT INCENTIVES

By Michael Greason

To one who has spent a career trying to encourage forest landowners to manage their tree resources, cost sharing programs have been a good tool to serve as the catalyst that put management on the land. As I see the funding diminish for Stewardship Incentives Program (SIP), Forestry Incentives Program (FIP), and other cost sharing incentives, I worry about the future of forestry. SIP was the most exciting public forestry program I have seen in thirty-five years; it was tailored for our state. Consequently, demand far exceeded funding allocations and many, many landowners became closer to their land. But now it appears we will have to try another way of capturing landowner interest.

We in public forestry realize we cannot return to the "good old days" when we would mark timber for clients. We recognize that as a role for the private sector. Yet the New York Society of American Foresters has become involved in studying cutting practices; because **the profession has a concern that some foresters may be high grading woodlots.** This practice (taking the best and leaving the rest) may provide a higher short term return in commission fees to the forester and bid stumpage prices to the owner, or the forester believes this is what the owner wants, or possibly for some other reason. With the forestry profession looking inwardly at itself with critical overtones, there appears to be a role for public forestry in providing unbiased information.

Shortages in public forestry staffing led to the inception of the Master Forest Owner (MFO) program. Trained volunteers, MFO's, meet with landowners and participate in events to share information and to encourage forest owners to contact a forester. The enlightened landowner is better ready to meet with a forester because more thought process has gone into thinking about land management goals and opportunities. The MFOs introduce these people to the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA), Tree Farm and other organizations involved in forestry. And an education process is started that helps the landowner guide the management of the property.

NYFOA, and its affiliates and chapters, further the education process. What evolves is a group of very good land stewards who

gain more benefits from their land. Unfortunately this approach is successful with about four tenths of one per cent of New York's forest owners. Obviously we need to do better.

Public forestry has been long recognized as a source of unbiased information. The Department of Environmental Conservation service forester has no vested interest in any individual property. Being salaried by the state, this forester does not depend on commissions or fees for livelihood. This individual fits in between the MFO and the private consultant or industrial forester. Forest resources, landowners and private foresters are well served through this. The private forester gains efficiency and credibility dealing with an informed landowner who may be referred.

One on one contact with a service forester has been traditionally triggered by an interest in having timber marked for free or cost sharing incentives. As the programs change, what will inspire a landowner to make contact?

Public forestry has been long recognized as a source of unbiased information.

One tool can be a management plan. Many consultants tell us landowners will not pay for a plan unless it is to gain a 480-a property tax exemption or SIP payments. The service forester can meet with a landowner, discuss the resource as it relates to management options, make a written document that gives the landowner a relatively brief record of that meeting. This would not conflict with the owner hiring a consultant for a 480-a detailed plan; yet it would have enough detail to guide the owner in making sound decisions in selecting a consultant and directing the management process. But is this service alone enough to stimulate landowners to contact the service forester? Or will more landowners simply wait for that logger with a fist full of dollars to appear at the kitchen door?

Another tool is having service foresters available for presentations for conveying all sorts of forestry information to all sorts of audiences. Many of the service foresters have participated in workshops, seminars, and woodswalks for NYFOA, Tree Farm, absentee landowners and so forth.

Many have also worked with the news media. These are functions that can be costly for the private sector and may not result in increased business. In some instances, audiences may perceive, unfairly, that the individual is only on a sales pitch. Yet, if someone from the private sector is involved in a program with participation from the public sector, that individual immediately gains credibility from the audience.

We, as a society, are harshly critical of developing nations for our perception of their exploitation of their forest resources. And then we seem reluctant to spend less than a dollar per taxpayer to encourage better management of our own resources that historically had been over-exploited. Service forestry is an encouragement approach rather than regulation. It has been a proven, low cost means of educating landowners. **Cost sharing is not akin to welfare.** Instead it is an incentive for forest owners to invest in practices that provide immediate and long term benefits to society. In a majority of the cases, it is a future owner that reaps the economic benefits from cost shared practices. When most land transfers, there is seldom a serious look at whether the forest on that land is thinned stands of high value timber species growing at maximum rates; or a slow growing woods of poor quality, low value types; or a recently high graded forest with serious management problems and limited economic potential. This is why woods are so often hammered just before the land is sold. And in our society, we seem to overlook this in favor of criticizing somebody else who is cutting a tropical rain forest in hopes of raising a farm crop upon which to subsist.

If service forestry survives this era of government downsizing and privatization, we are going to have to ask ourselves what tools will motivate effectively landowners to become involved actively in the management of their land. Any ideas? Please share them with me: Michael Greason, NYS DEC, 50 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12233-4253.

Mike is an Associate Forester for NYS DEC Division of Lands and Forests in the Central Office in Albany and 1993 winner of NYFOA's Heiberg Award.

A version of this article will appear in a forthcoming issue of THE NATIONAL WOODLANDS.

PUBLICATIONS FROM THE US FOREST SERVICE

The US Forest Service has recently completed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on **Gypsy Moth Management in the United States: a cooperative approach** (November 1995). Volume I is a 28 page **Summary** of the 6 alternatives considered and evaluated in the other four volumes: 300 page Vol II, the Final EIS; 250 page Vol III, APPENDIX F, Human Health Risk Assessment; 350 page Vol IV, APPENDIX G, Ecological Risk Assessment; and the 50 page Vol V, APPENDIX H, Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Responses.



Female gypsy moths produce a chemical to attract males. Photo from Summary, Vol I, Gypsy Moth Management.

FOREST STATISTICS FOR NEW YORK: 1980 AND 1993 By Carol Alerich and David Drake compare tree statistics from the US Forest Service's 3rd and 4th forest inventories for New York; county by county, region by region, species by species, and size by size. There are over two hundred pages of tables, charts, graphs, and definitions which describe New York's timber and timberlands in statistical form based on data compiled from 82,775 new photo prints and 6,452 previously sampled ground plots; and remeasured and new ground plots totaling 5,403.

Forest Management Update is a

newsletter, the latest of which is numbered 16 in the series, has 26 pages, and contains a somewhat detailed discussion of "Reforesting Abandoned Agricultural Land" and another 8 topics of interest to "...forestland managers and others interested in the stewardship of the forest resource."

Two publications (4-color glossies) highly recommended for forest owners, Master Forest Owners (MFOs) and other environmentalists are a 30 page publication entitled, **Riparian Forest Buffers** and the 68 page, **Forested Wetlands**.

The reader may obtain copies of the aforementioned publications (if available) and/or be added to the appropriate mailing list by writing to the USDA Forest Service; 5 Radnor Corporate Center; Radnor, PA 19087-4585 or phone 610/975-4135 (PA) or 304/285-1592 (WV).

Forest Owners' Guide to the Federal Income Tax, Agricultural Handbook No. 708, October 1995. This 140 page document is an updated and expanded version of Agriculture Handbook No. 681, July 1989. It is for sale from Superintendent of Documents, Mail Stop: SSOP, Washington, DC 20402-9328.



The spikes of sensitive or bead fern, Onoclea sensibilis, persist through the winter. Photo by Scott Jackson, p. 29 Forested Wetlands.

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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.

The following was excerpted from an article, Tree Shelters Revisited by Dave Riordan, in the newsletter of NYFOA's Affiliate, the Catskill Forest Association:

The Morris Arboretum in Philadelphia, PA sponsored a tree shelter conference in June, 1995. Forestry professionals from around the country gathered to dig deeply into the subject. Developed in England more than 15 years ago, these plastic tubes have been on the U.S. market for ten years. They are installed over newly planted or regenerated seedlings and encourage optimum growth by creating a more flexible environment.

A tree shelter also acts as a barrier that

prevents damage from gnawing rodents and browsing deer. They are effectively used in wildlife habitat restoration. Increased biodiversity can be realized in areas of high competition and limited seed source. During intensive tree planting with high unit value, e.g. black walnut seedlings, they are recommended to increase the chance of survival.

A shelter is a tool not a panacea. There are limits to their use. Cost is a consideration. At almost \$1.00 per foot for the whole system, using the recommended five foot shelter on 100 seedlings adds \$500 to the planting costs. Of course, if you do not use them, your seedlings will be nipped in the bud over and over again and your initial investment in seedlings and labor will be lost.

Besides protection from marauding beasts, some benefits you may notice include increased growth in the short term and higher survival rates. Their benefits after five years are unknown.

**Maintenance is essential.
If you are unwilling
or unable to do it,
do not use shelters at all.**

Maintenance concerns are the most important and the most overlooked. If the whole tree shelter system (shelter, stake, and securing tie) is not installed properly, or under inappropriate circumstances, shelters may create more problems than they solve. Lack of maintenance also causes more problems than if the trees were unprotected. In areas of early frost, seedlings are likely to die back heavily because they don't harden off unless the shelters are raised up in late summer and put back in place as winter approaches. They also must be cleaned every spring.

Unfortunately, they have not lived up to all their expectations. Stakes that are currently available are not consistently manufactured or of sufficient quality. Shelters do not always degrade as publicized due to varying levels of ultra-violet inhibitors.

As long as there is no browsing problem, trees grown without shelters do as well as protected trees after five years. If there is adequate advanced regeneration above browse height, there is no need to use shelters.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUCCESS:

1) Maintenance is essential. If you are unwilling or unable to do it, do not use shelters at all.

2) Tree shelters are very species limited and are not recommended for evergreens. When planting deciduous trees use the biggest seedling you can. Even if you have to throw away half of your planting stock, the seedlings are the least expensive and most important part of the planting. Approximately 40 to 60 days before soil temperatures are expected to reach 40 degrees, nursery grown seedlings should have their roots undercut to increase the number of lateral roots. This should coincide with the seedlings' 3rd flush of growth in their first year, and 2nd flush in their second year.

3) Competing brush and weeds need to be controlled from planting time through the 6th year.

4) Do not be too quick to remove the shelters. Allow stems to strengthen while still protected.

5) If you are trying to establish oaks, plant 3-6 sprouting acorns per tube in **mineral soil**. Competition will ensure that the genetically superior seedling survives.

6) Bird nets are important and should be used. However, if they are not removed in a timely fashion, they will deform the terminal leader.

7) On shallow, rocky, or clay sites you will experience heavy heaving and downed tubes. By placing the stakes to the recommended depth you can insure appropriate installation, and reduce the number of falling shelters.

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CHAPTERS/AFFILIATES

SOUTHEASTERN ADIRONDACK

Although most of Hamilton County consists of Forest Preserve lands of the Adirondack Park, there are some private landowners that are actively managing their woodlot. **Jack and Joan Leadley** of Speculator are one such example. October 7th over 40 NY Forest Owners braved the rain to visit the *real* Visitor Interpretive Center of the Adirondacks, the Leadley Tree Farm!

One of the highlights of the woodswalk was the bark shanty that Jack built a few years ago. Butted against a huge boulder, the shanty is a near replica of what Adirondack trappers may have built and used 100-150 years ago with native spruce bark and deer skins.

Next on the tour was a walk through Jack's workshop where he makes snowshoes, packbaskets, and Adirondack chairs of yellow birch. Here, Jack showed how he makes packbaskets from the pounding of the black ash to the final details. To attest to the quality of the packbasket he will sit on it, with the packbasket on its side! Try that with yours and see what happens!!

Finally, a tour of the sugar house, where sap from over 2000 taps is reduced to a few hundred gallons of Adirondack maple syrup, or molded into sugar. The tour concluded with a stop at the pond and a hike to the "back forty".



NYFOA members inspect the craftsmanship of Jack Leadley's Bark Shanty.

Photo by Patricia Kay.

The SEA Chapter, along with the Adirondack Mountain Club and Crandall Library will co-sponsor a lecture and slide presentation about the book, The Northern Forest by David Dobbs and Richard Ober [see Book Review, NYFO J/A 95, 11]. **David Dobbs** will make the presentation Wednesday, **February 7th** at 7-8:45 PM in the auditorium of Crandall Public Library, 251 Glen Street, Glens Falls. In case of inclement weather, an alternate date will be February 14th.

The book, The Northern Forest, profiles several people of the Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, and New York region. These people - mill workers, duck hunters, landowners, foresters, loggers, and biologists - try to respond to the need to balance the use and conservation of this 26 million acre forest. What the authors found convinced them that, "**truly saving the Northern Forest will mean cultivating the knowledge and care residing in the people who live there, and who struggle each day to use these lands well.**"

For more information contact **Bruce Cole** at 518/792-6508.

WESTERN FINGER LAKES

THANK YOU! To all the WFL members for the participation and hard work produced in 1995.

Also, a special thanks to consulting forester, **Art Brooks** and **Ron Pederson** for an excellent workshop on Timber Theft which was given at our November meeting. Many hours went into the extensive research that Art has done and the slide presentation that Ron helped to develop. We were also favored to have representatives from the Central New York and Allegheny Chapters to attend this meeting.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for **January 17, 1996**. **Dave and Beth Buckley** will present one of their new slide shows at our general meeting. Check your newsletter for details.

ALLEGHENY FOOTHILLS

This year's walnut harvest netted the AFC a rewarding grand total of \$980.00. Many people in the chapter worked hard to collect hundreds of bushels of walnuts. The **Mowatts** (Charlie & Marian) collected

200 bushels! Others who collected large amounts: **Bob & Helen Nagle, Bud & Marie Larsen, Joann & Mark Kurtis, Don & Jan Lawson, and Betty Densmore.** *A really magnificent effort!*

In September we toured the Mowatt family homestead in Franklinville to examine a woodlot after harvest. There were also demonstrations of the Farmi Winch by **Billy Morris**; and there was a chain saw maintenance and saw sharpening seminar by **Chris Rogosienski**. In October we enjoyed an orienteering course at the **Kurtises'** property in Rushford. Our November event, a presentation by **Bruce Robinson & Son**, on *Enhancing Wildlife on Your Land*, was held at Little Valley.

The steering committee has planned many interesting events for 1996, beginning with our annual *Rural Landowners Seminar*, which we offer with other interested organizations to western New York landowners.

CAYUGA CHAPTER



Two members of the Cayuga Chapter, Jay Fuller, (l), and Lfee Signor receive Cayuga County's Soil and Water Conservation District's 1995 Conservationist of the Year Award.

LETTERS

NYFOA's Display

I was very happy to see a picture of the NYFOA tabletop display gracing the cover of the November-December, 1995 issue of THE NY FOREST OWNER. During this past summer, the display appeared at eleven events, including two county fairs, two logger seminars, two NYFOA Annual meetings, Empire Farm Days, CNY's Family Forest Fair, and the Catskill Forest Association Annual Meeting. It seems to be standing the gaff fairly well.

Any chapter or affiliate having use for the display should contact me to arrange for reservation and delivery. (It fits in the back seat of our Subaru sedan.)

I must point out an error on page two which credits the WFL Chapter for funding the display board. In fact, it was the Allegheny Foothills Chapter that provided financial support for the promotional display. Memorial donations to AFC, made in the name of **Karen Anderson**, provided the money. Karen was a much loved member of NYFOA and a driving force behind the Allegheny Foothills Chapter.

Please also acknowledge the change in leadership (Chapter Representative) of the Allegheny Foothills Chapter. Our new, dynamic, and **organized** Chair is **Don Huber**. His address is 9308 Ryther Road, Angola NY 14006. Phone 716/549-5025. -*Charlie Mowatt, Savona*

ERRATA

Page 20 of the November/December issue of the NY FOREST OWNER, the captions to the three pictures accompanying the article, NY's Corps of Master Forest Owner..., were all interchanged. The caption: "*David Swaciak...leads a field exercise...*", belongs with the bottom photo. The caption: "*Henry Huizinga...addresses the 1995 class...*", belongs with the top photo.

The caption: "*Ron Pederson addresses the 1995 class...*", belongs with the center photo.

Recycling Xmas

A friend of mine uses chips from a local Christmas tree recycling project to mulch plants on his property. How much risk, if any, is there of introducing diseases and insect pests by this practice? - *John Braubitz, Owasco.*

Positions of Principle

I heard that people are more opposed to fur than leather; because it's safer to harass rich women than motorcycle gangs. - "*Molly*" *Doolittle, Moravia.*

Philosophy

the dogs barking
up the wrong tree
smell the scent
of the animal
that climbed the tree

the tree the animal
jumped to
the one with no scent
becomes the right tree

both trees are right
both trees are wrong
and the dogs bark on
- *Wayne Oakes, Vequita, NM*

I REMEMBER

By R.D. Wade

Shades of "Penrod and Sam", (a Booth Tarkington novel).

I had a neighbor that, together with myself, were quite a bit the same - like setting the chicken house on fire. Well, not actually, as the floor was of cement, so the chaff that we fired up burned itself out before the building caught. My friend always got away, while my mother caught me.

Another time we were coming down

Congress Street from school, that was on Church Street. There were several board walks yet in the village at that time. Mostly hemlock boards laid across two by fours. Always plenty of knot holes in the boards, which were a temptation for young boys (only!) to practice their aim, if you realize my meaning. Possibly the people living at 18 Congress Street had witnessed former performances and had advised my mother. Clifford Perkins and I had not noticed that she was hiding behind a large maple tree. Firing practice had only nicely started when I was grabbed by the left ear and marched swiftly home. My buddy got away free, as usual. Probably that accounts for my left ear being a bit more prominent than the right one. It seemed to be my mother's favorite handle. I deserved worse.

This is excerpted from a column of the same title as sporadically printed in Roland Day Wade's home town newspaper, The Moravia-Republican Register, which is owned and published by the same people that print the NY FOREST OWNER. At over 90, Roland no longer smokes in chicken houses or exhibits some other habits of his earlier years.

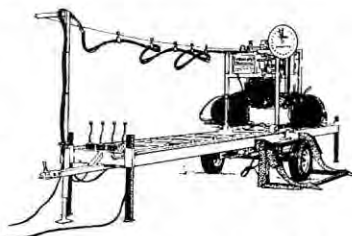
THE FLAG

New York State's deer management team has developed a new vehicle to inform and educate New Yorkers about deer and deer management issues in the state: a semi-annual newsletter entitled THE FLAG and devoted entirely to deer. Comments, questions, or ideas for future articles can be directed to the deer biologist in the DEC region in which you live or to the Big Game Unit, Wildlife Resources Center, 108 Game Farm Road, Delmar, NY 12054-9767 (and have your name and address added to the mailing list).



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WINTERSCAPES: By Patricia Kay & Dorothy Darling



Horseshoe Falls, Ontario

Bush and tree are enshrined and held fast,
Swaddled in garments of cold whiteness,
Still and restrained, frozen captives, lost
To the sway of wind and the warmth of sun.

They intermingle in forced togetherness,
Clasped in winter's unrelenting arms;
Heavy laden, they bow to the plunging
Waters that are struck stiff and still--

No longer a jubilant flow over the edge;
Gone the exuberance of the downward journey;
The shore captives wear a mien of empathy
As clustered they stand, appearing to lean
That they might join in the daring dream
Of freedom that all captivity envisions.

Photo by
Patricia Kay

© 1986

Poem by
Dorothy Darling

about WINTERSCAPE

Readers of the NY FOREST OWNER are fortunate to have among the members of the NYFOA and contributors to the magazine, two people, who with the enthusiastic support of NYFOA's Editorial Committee, present a joint artistic production of photographs and poems. The titled photographs currently number seven and constitute an original series entitled, **WINTERSCAPES**.

The photographs are generously provided by a professional photographer, Patricia Kay, who lives in Galway. Patricia is a member of the Southeastern Adirondack Chapter and is the source for those great photographs of SEA Chapter activities. In the Mar/Apr issue of this year's FOREST OWNER, Patricia Kay wrote an inspiring article, "The Tao of Woodstacking" which was accompanied with two similarly inspiring photographs.

Regarding the series of artistic photographs, **WINTERSCAPES**, Patricia says, "I

pretty much have stopped working on it although I still find myself attracted to the peace and silence and beauty of winter. Those are the qualities I have attempted to express in my photographs. I moved to Galway in the winter of 1984/85. I was from California and snow just wasn't in my vocabulary. It was the newness of the season, the way that snow covered everything making life seem renewable that drove me into the sometimes harsh conditions just to capture it forever on film. Photographing in the winter was also a technical learning experience: things like making the snow appear white on film and keeping my batteries warm enough to function. Also keeping myself warm while making exposures that sometimes lasted minutes."

Patricia suggested that perhaps a poem to accompany the photographs would enhance their appeal to the reader.

Dorothy Darling is known to readers of the FOREST OWNER since the issue of Jan/Feb 1994 where is found the first of seven poems she has provided for our enjoyment. Dorothy has lived most of her life in the Schuyler County area where for twenty years she served in the offices of Cotton-Hanlon's Lumber facility, as well as did her husband. Dorothy and Betty Lou Sand, wife of staunch NYFOA supporter Bob Sand, were traveling companions in the early eighties to Ireland. Active in the Schuyler County Peace Group and the Odessa Methodist Church she visited the former Soviet Union and subsequently described her experiences to groups in the area. Dorothy is currently engaged in the writing of her fourth novel.

Dorothy has graciously created a poem for each of the titled photographs.

The NY FOREST OWNER will present the pair, photograph and poem, as covers or within the body of the magazine this winter or next. For comments, you may write the editor, or Patricia Kay; 6051 Greens Corner Road; Galway, NY 12074 or Dorothy S. Darling; PO Box 294; Odessa, NY 14869.

WINTER FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

7Th Cabin Fever Festival

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Many enjoy the sleigh and wagon rides.

FUTURE TRENDS IN DEMAND FOR NEW YORK STATE WOOD PRODUCTS

By Lloyd C. Irland

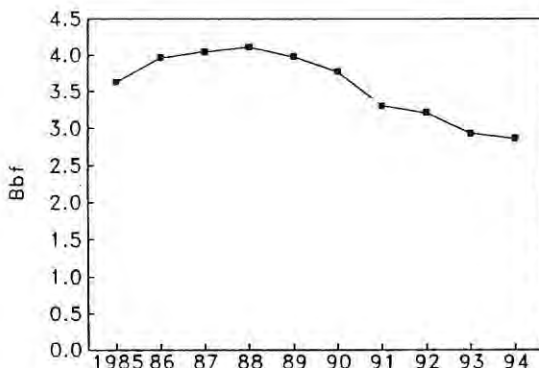
A discussion of demand is customary in any review of a state's forest resources outlook. Demand forecasting is an inexact science at best, but a few observations about the outlook may be useful. Wood products markets include consumer goods, industrial components and intermediate goods, and commodity raw materials. Buyers in each category have different kinds of competing alternatives to wood, different degrees of price sensitivity, and very different buying influences. Irland and Whaley (1992) suggest that for the Northeast as a whole, wood harvests could rise by 50% from 1987 to 2040. But by itself, this may not tell us much.

COMPETITIVE PICTURE

First, there is no such thing as the demand for New York's wood products. Instead, there are markets for timberland, logs and chips, market pulp, lumber, furniture, and what not. Few consumers, if any, ever look at a pine board to see whether it was sawn in New York, Quebec, or Maine. Or even New Zealand, for that matter. Industrial users pay a good deal of attention to technical specs and supplier reliability.

Most wood products serve mature markets. Market growth is slow, and some markets are in declining stages as new competing products or production regions take share from established areas.

Figure 1
Ponderosa Pine Lumber Production

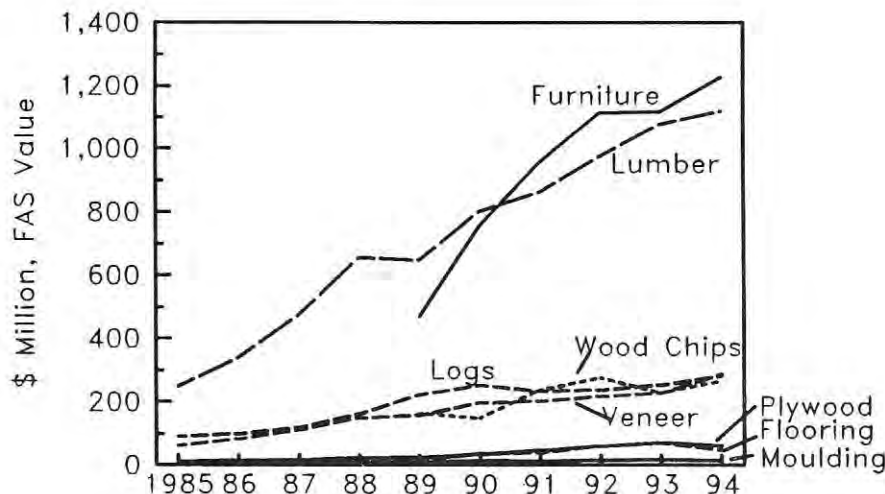


Decline in Ponderosa exceeds Eastern White Pine output

Source: WWPA 1993 Yearbook, p. 27

Figure 2

U.S. Exports of Hardwood Products by Commodity



Source: Compiled by FAS from official statistics of US Dept. of Commerce. Furniture (SIC 251) from U.S. Industrial Outlook, 1994.

Second, New York's market share is extremely small for most wood products, in the area of 1 to 5%. This compares to its 7% share of the U.S. population, and to its 3% share of the U.S. commercial forest land area. So New York is a major consumer of wood products and will continue to be so in the future.

In all of these products, the state's outlook hinges on New York's competitive position - its ability to deliver quality goods, on time, at competitive prices. Who is the competition? This depends on the product. For coated papers, it might be Maine or Michigan, with emerging competitors in Canada and Georgia. For furniture, it might be North Carolina or Taiwan. For turnery products, it is increasingly Malaysia. Now, evaluating a state's competitive position is difficult in a complex and many-faceted industry and is really not the prime focus for this paper.

A few more observations about competitiveness:

-- the northeast is basically noncompetitive in commodity products, whether these be market pulp, furniture, softwood struc-

tural lumber, or structural panels;

-- a large and growing inventory of standing timber does not by itself attract manufacturing capacity to process the wood;

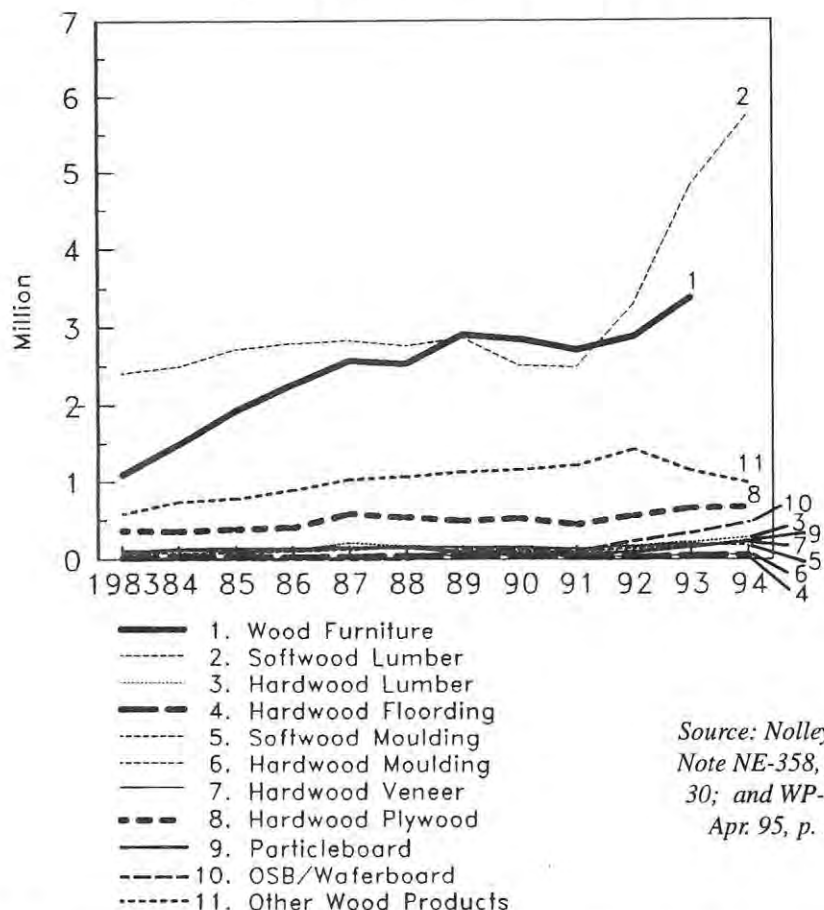
-- New York is positioned to serve a market of 77 million people. Yet large concentrations of consumers in northeast metro area markets do not confer a competitive advantage in mass-market consumer goods.

Competing U.S. sources of softwood lumber are declining except for the South. For one example, the production of U.S. ponderosa pine in the West has declined by more than the total continental production of eastern white pine (Fig. 1). This is one factor responsible for high prices for white pine lumber, but also for increased interest in fiber-formed doors, nonwood window stock, and in veneering.

Hardwood log production in the tropics has declined in one major region after another; and prices of lumber, veneer, and plywood are not only rising but becoming more volatile. Leading export customers are buying more and more temperate hardwood as a result.

Figure 3

U.S. Imports Selected Wood Products



Source: Nolley, Res. Note NE-358, p. 28-30; and WP-1-95, Apr. 95, p. 79.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

The globalizing wood economy is here. On the export side, world trends and favorable exchange rates have fostered impressive export growth for hardwood products. Encouragingly, exports of hardwood lumber and furniture outpaced logs in dollar terms (Fig. 2). Logs, chips, and veneer are very similar both in dollar value and trend, while other value-added items are very small. For softwoods, export values are dominated by logs but lumber has steadily been increasing.

Wood product imports are dominated by softwood lumber and by furniture. Higher lumber prices and increased imports have played a major role in the deterioration of the nation's wood product trade balance. Imports of an assortment of value added items are comparatively small and display no spectacular trend (Fig. 3).

Worldwide, demand for wood is likely to grow. The FAO predicts that world paper and board consumption will rise by 90% from 1993 to 2010 (Pulp and Paper, Nov 1995). The increased consumption is equal to double the present North American

usage. I suspect that paper demand forecasts are usually on the high side, but even with a healthy discount for skepticism, this increase is prodigious. For industrial softwood roundwood, Apsey and Reed (1994) expect demand to rise by 1.5% per year, which means roughly a 60% increase from 1992-2020. This will lead to a theoretical "supply gap" of 30%.

What place New York's forest will find in this dynamic picture is difficult to see with any precision (see, e.g., Canham and Smith, 1994; Yellow Wood Assoc., 1991; and ESFPA, 1995). Competition will clearly intensify. The question is, who wants and needs a location like New York? The answer will differ from product to product. We can be certain, though, that adaptability and innovation will be the keys to survival and growth.

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GAME OF LOGGING

Good for the Landowner, Good for the Woodlot

By Donna Rogler

Soren Eriksson's Game of Logging for Landowners came to New York on November 5 and 7. The Catskill Forest Association hosted the first of these workshops in the state. Adapted from the original Game of Logging (GOL) aimed at professional timber harvesters, the landowner version recognizes that this group may spend as much time operating a chain saw as professional loggers. More than just how to cut down trees, the Game of Logging brings together all of the elements of responsible forestry - chainsaw safety and maintenance, use of safety equipment, harvesting techniques, site planning, and forest stewardship. Directional felling skills, which enable the feller to precisely drop trees into selected spaces, are stressed. Use of this technique helps to minimize damage to surrounding trees, taking into account the long term consequences when making felling decisions. The entire program is conducted in four levels. Levels 1 and 2 are usually done on consecutive days, followed by Levels 3 and 4 at later dates. This allows participants to practice and gain confidence with the technique learned at the first levels. At each level participants are graded and awarded points based on performance, thus competing against each



Donna Rogler lining up face cut (observer - Bob Shubin).

other for prizes such as hard hats and chaps. Penalties are assessed for safety violations.

Level 1 began at Sheldon Hill Forestry in Boiceville. Sheldon Hill is a dealer for Husqvarna, a national sponsor of the Game of Logging. Soren Eriksson personally conducted the workshop assisted by Pennsylvania GOL satellite instructor **Dan Hartranft**. Participants listened to the 58 year old guru of logging as he stressed the

importance of personal protective equipment when working with a chainsaw. When asked if anyone had chainsaw scars, several participants raised their hands. Soren went over each piece of equipment - hard hat, ear and eye protection, leg protection, gloves, and safety boots showing where possible how a piece of equipment would prevent injury. Participants with chainsaws were led through a maintenance routine, including proper chain filing, bar and sprocket maintenance, and carburetor adjustment.

After a great lunch provided by Sheldon Hill, the group traveled to the field site, the Ashokan Field Campus of SUNY/New Paltz. The Field Campus has a sugar bush that is being invaded by red maple and white ash and proved to be a good site for the exercises. Our objectives in the sugar bush were to remove the large red maple and white ash and not damage the small sugar maples in the understory.

Soren began the afternoon activities with a discussion of proper hinges, face notches, plunge cuts, felling wedges, and "reading" tree information before felling. This was followed by a demonstration of the controlled felling technique. The participants then broke into two groups. A tree with a three foot high stump was provided



George White goes for the plunge cut.



Spring pole cutting demonstration.

for each group to practice plunge or bore cutting technique which involves starting the back cut or felling cut just behind the hinge. This cut was only a part of the 64 point exercise which also included the five check points on the saw, identifying the sections of saw chain on the bar, and having all safety gear in place.

Level 2 began with a discussion of the components of the felling exercise, worth 40 points. Each person fells a tree using the knowledge and skills acquired in Level 1. Participants first decide where they are going to put their tree. They are graded on five factors: 1) sizing up the tree - forward and backward lean, side lean, and weight distribution; 2) assessing hazards around the tree; 3) planning an escape route; 4) determining hinge width; and 5) specifying a cutting plan, including aiming the face cut, placement of plunge cut, and use of a wedge, if necessary.

Day two began noisily with participants tuning their carburetors and sharpening chains. Soren then provided a demonstration on cutting a spring pole, a bent sapling under pressure, which can be very dangerous, if cut improperly. Breaking into small groups again, the felling exercise continued with each person getting a turn at felling a tree. Points were awarded for the five factors listed above and for hitting the selected target. Points were deducted for having less than determined minimum hinge, for stump pulls of more than three inches, and for missing the target. Ten point penalties were assessed for each safety violation.

The final exercise of the workshop involved estimating where the top of a tree

would fall using Soren's "Pro Sight". Each participant used this sighting card and placed a stake where they judged the top of the selected tree would come to rest. Soren then felled the tree and points were awarded to those participants whose stakes were within a three foot radius of the top.

The workshop ended with the awarding of prizes for the highest point totals. The overall winner was **Chris Joyce** of Apalachin with 103 points. His prize was a Peltor Helmet System, a hardhat with face and ear protection. Other winners were **Bob Shubin**, **Joe D'Auria**, and **Woody Woodruff**. They each received leg protection in the form of chaps or pants. All had Soren autograph their prizes.

The workshop fee is \$133.00 per person per level. While \$266 for a two day workshop may seem high, it is a very good investment when compared to the cost of a chainsaw injury. One participant signed up for Level 1 only, but showed up for Level 2 when he realized the value of the workshop.

Level 3 is tentatively scheduled for the first week of **April**, with Level 4 scheduled for sometime in **May**. Soren has indicated that if there is enough interest, he will repeat Levels 1 and 2 during one of those two workshops. The workshops will be open to landowners, foresters, and loggers. If you are interested in participating in an upcoming Game of Logging, please contact the Catskill Forest Association at 914/586-3054.

Donna Rogler is the Director of Education for the NYFOA Affiliate, the Catskill Forest Association

LOGGING SAFETY OPTIONS

By David W. Taber

New Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Safety and Health Standards for Logging, February 9, 1995 may stimulate the need to get additional information. A few sources of information, programs, and/or services that may be useful are as follows:

- 1) New York Logger Training, Inc.
Empire State Forest Products Assn. (ESFPA)
Kevin S. King, Executive V.P.
123 State Street; Albany, NY 12207
518/463-1297; Fax 518/426-9502
- 2) Utilization & Marketing Section, DEC
Attn: Tom Martin or Bruce Williamson
Division of Lands & Forests
50 Wolf Road; Albany NY 13309
518/457-7431
- 3) NY Lumbermens' Insurance Trust Fund
c/o W.J. Cox Associates, Inc.
6480 Main St.; Williamsville, NY 14221
716/631-8562; Fax 716/633-1048
- 4) The Game of Logging
Soren Eriksson Training Program
Attn: Dan Hartranft
717/326-0300
- 5) Northeastern Loggers Assn., Inc.
Jeff Worrall, Training Director
PO Box 69; Old Forge, NY 13420-0069
315/369-3078; Fax 315/369-3736
- 6) Guide to OSHA Standards-\$10
American Pulpwood Association, Inc.
1025 Vermont Ave. NW, Suite 1020;
Washington, DC 20005
202/347-2900; Fax 202/783-2685
- 7) Federal Register; Oct. 12, 1994 Part II
Department of Labor, OSHA
29 CFR Parts 1910 and 1928
Logging Operations; Final Rule

David Taber is a Senior Extension Associate in the Department of Natural Resources with Cornell University Cooperative Extension.

Adirondack Windstorms and Insects

By Douglas Allen

Severe wind storms of the kind that marched through the Adirondacks on July 15, 1995 are not unknown to this region of New York. For most people of the present generation, prior to this summer, memories focused on the "great blow" of 1950. However, this and the most recent episode were merely the latest in a series of similar events that have been recorded in this area periodically since the late 1700s. In an anthropomorphic sense, these storms probably were viewed as little more than curiosities prior to the time people settled and developed the north country. Today, however, they can be devastating to both people and property.

An interesting question arises concerning the impact of these natural events on "forest health". The general public tends to view the aftermath as all "bad news"; understandably, because attitudes are formed by immediate concerns about safety, property damage and downed power lines, with little thought to the beneficial ecological consequences. However, people should realize that these natural events are partially responsible for the pattern, distribution and diversity of vegetation that exists in the Adirondacks.

On private lands, there may be interest in salvaging downed material to recover potential loss of wood products. Also, there should be a concern about the sanitation benefits that can accrue from early removal of downed or damaged trees. In this type of situation, the forest owner's objective usually is a combination of sanitation/salvage; the former to prevent a buildup of potential insect pests, the latter to recoup financial losses.

Of primary concern is the extent to which insects such as woodborers and bark beetles will exploit the abundant source of host material produced by the storm. In a "forest health" sense, these organisms will play an important role in the decomposition of this woody material and recycling of nutrients to the forest ecosystem.

A study by entomologists from the New York State Museum and Science Service and State Conservation Department following the storm of November, 1950 suggests that populations of certain insects are likely to build up in downed material, but they are unlikely to invade adjacent healthy trees. If the landowner wants to salvage wood in order to minimize insect-caused damage that is likely to reduce or negate

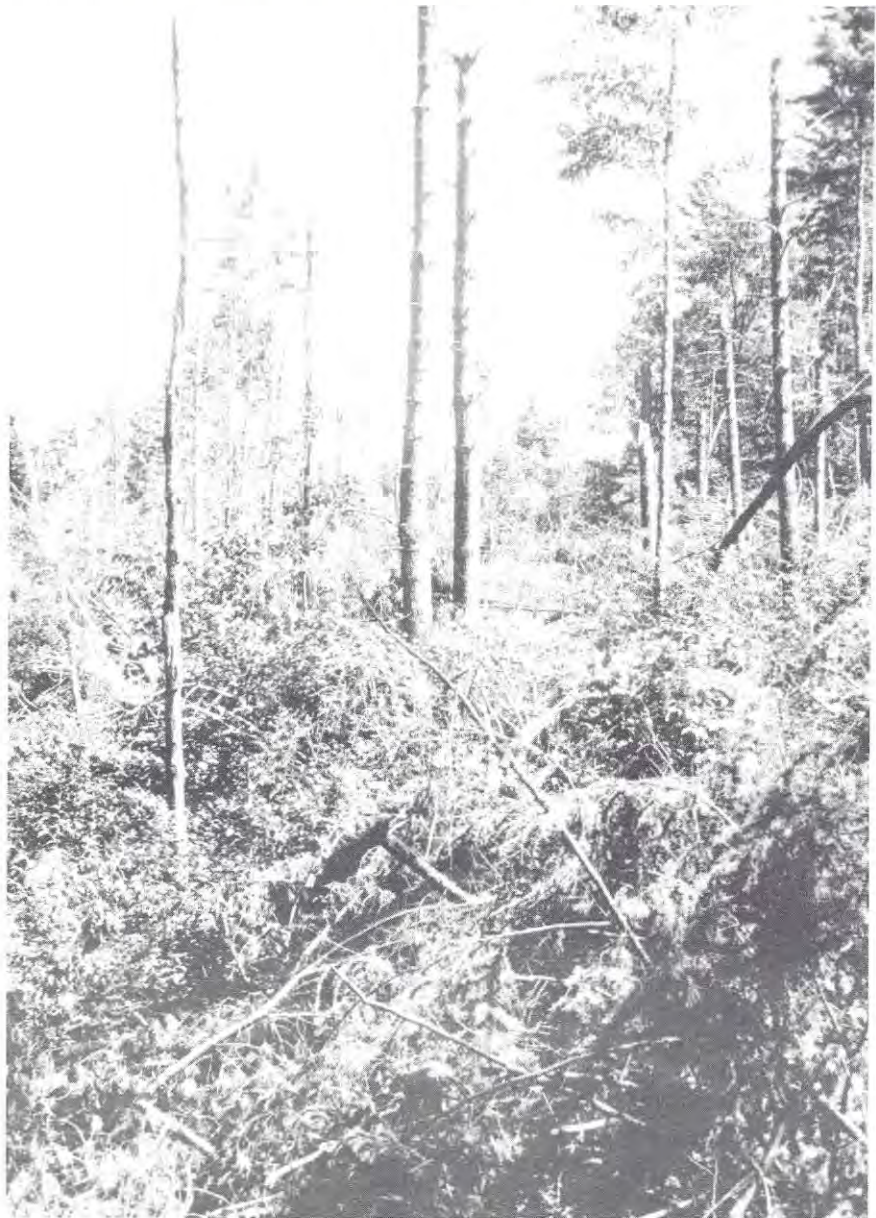


Photo by Doug Allen

the economic value of storm damaged trees, however, there is a sense of urgency.

Susceptibility to secondary insects (i.e., species requiring stressed or damaged trees, or freshly cut wood) is of more immediate concern in the current situation compared to the 1950 storm because of timing. Trees downed or damaged in July were susceptible to invasion this summer, probably within a few days or weeks depending on the host and insect species involved. Trees damaged by a storm in November, however, would not be invaded until spring.

Two groups of beetles are the major concern; woodborers (both roundheaded borers and ambrosia beetles) and inner bark

borers (bark beetles). Conifers (needle bearing trees) are susceptible to both groups, but ambrosia beetles are the primary potential source of degrade for hardwoods.

Suitable host material takes one of two forms; i) downed or severely damaged standing trees and ii) individuals that survived damage, and appeared healthy this summer, but actually could have been seriously stressed by physical injuries that occurred to root systems when they were "rocked" severely in high winds.

CONIFERS

We are fortunate in the northeastern



Photo by Doug Allen

United States because, as a rule, the bark beetles associated with conifers are not as aggressive as their counterparts in the south or west. This means that generally a tree must be severely damaged or stressed in some other way before beetles are able to invade. It is a certainty that next summer in the Adirondacks bark beetle populations will build up in windblown spruce and pine. Also, in many situations it is probable that when these insects emerge from downed material they will be able to successfully establish in standing, stressed hosts on the periphery of blowdowns. However, it is very unlikely that emerging populations will infest healthy trees in nearby stands. From a **sanitation** standpoint, under these conditions it may be important to remove infested material this fall, winter or as early as possible in the spring to destroy beetle broods before they complete development.

This reduces the likelihood that stressed trees adjacent to blowdowns will be attacked by emerging beetles next summer. In terms of **salvage**, early removal will prevent degrade from the blue stain fungus that accompanies bark beetle attack. These insects remain under the bark and do not bore holes in the wood.

Two types of true woodborers commonly are associated with conifer blowdowns in the northeast; roundheaded borers (also called long-horned beetles) and ambrosia beetles. The principal roundheaded borers of concern belong to a group known as "sawyer beetles". Their immature stages (larvae) feed beneath bark like true bark beetles, but differ from the latter in that they are much larger and excavate large (diameter, length) overwintering tunnels a few to several inches into the sapwood. These tunnels and the blue stain

that also accompanies these infestations, can seriously degrade lumber. Sawyer beetle adults are active from May to September. Therefore, it is likely that much blowdown was infested during the summer of 1995.

Ambrosia beetles do not spend any time beneath bark, but bore very small holes directly into the wood. Adults inoculate their galleries with fungal spores, and beetles and larvae feed on the fungus that eventually grows in the gallery system. Degrade results from the "pin" holes and associated dark fungal stain that permeates wood adjacent to each gallery. Holes and stain appear in lumber and veneer produced from infested trees. Ambrosia beetles require unseasoned (moist), sound wood. Generally, in our region adults of the key species involved attack freshly cut logs or blowdown in spring and early summer. It is unlikely that material damaged last July will be infested until spring 1996 when **salvage** must be done early to minimize losses.

HARDWOODS

Experience suggests that the main thing to be concerned about with hardwood blowdown, especially sugar maple and yellow birch, will be ambrosia beetle activity next spring. As with conifers, it is unlikely that this material currently is infested with ambrosia beetles, but it will be a prime target next spring when overwintering adults emerge and seek new hosts. Here again, **salvage** must be done quickly to prevent degrade. In the likelihood that some trees may have been infested by late emerging adults this summer, or that trees will be attacked too early for timely salvage next spring, when logs are brought out they should be **processed quickly** to minimize degrade.

This is the 24th in the series of articles contributed by Dr. Allen, Professor of Forest Entomology at SUNY/ESF.

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Stormy Weather

By Jane Sorensen Lord, Phd, OTR, ND

Hollywood. Definitely Hollywood made the picture Christmas cards that captured snow with a shimmering brook running through a sunny winter scene. Variations of the pictures arrived in Cleveland each year when I was a child. Everybody knew that the sun goes behind the clouds and stays there until April where we lived, walking distance from Lake Erie. Those sunny scenes were faked. They were just the streams of the Cleveland valley, photographed with big screen lights.

We moved to Greenwich, Connecticut when I was thirteen and discovered the pictures were real! The stream in our backyard bubbled and sparkled in brilliant snow just like the picture Christmas cards! What a difference the sun made coming out and shining in the winter like that. You want to go outside and you can feel the warmth sitting on a window seat. And Azaleas stay in bloom a long time indoors.

The winds were different too. In Cleveland the north wind ferociously picks up the Lake and it becomes treacherous - Erie is the shallowest of the Great Lakes and kicks up fast! I've sailed out in calm and two hours later could not see the beacon guiding us to the river harbor. The waves were higher than the spar on our small Lightning.

In Connecticut, Nor'easters blew down



trees creating power outs and making high tides flood basements. So did the hurricanes, the most fascinating storms. For several hours the trees and plants blew increasingly to the left, stopped, then blew decreasingly to the right. (For educational purposes mother prepared window seats.)

The time Gordon and I stayed home in Harriman to watch a hurricane was disappointing. I had not thought about being in hilly terrain. The storm was also diffused by our being inland seventy-five miles. It was fully demonstrative in Greenwich.

I still can't tell weather inland. But near the sea, I can look at the clouds and tell how far away is a storm. On our Tree Farm in the Schwangunk Valley, the weather clues are still meaningless to me. Thunder seems to start hours before it finally rains. I've seen whole days where it looks to rain any second. The same thunderheads would come and go in an hour near the sea.

And the wind in the Valley blows in a circle, down, around, and up. It never stops, you can always hear it and feel it. You can see it in the tree tops and by the raptors attracted to the wind currents.

The new weather phenomena I've experienced that seem to belong to the inland are ice storms. In total awe, I have never seen more beautiful weather creations than the mountains with the trees glistening brilliantly like diamonds in the sun. (I know this is horrible for the trees. And a walk in the woods supports that; but it is breathtaking.)

I don't know if the ice effect I have seen in my garden is typical of being inland in a valley, like the haze in fall that stays until ten thirty in the morning, but many of my plants froze before they browned.

Salad Burnet, Calendula, Sour Grass, and a bunch of other plants are flash frozen with their normal color green, not at all slimy. They are still good to eat. In fact, I put some in baggies in the freezer. They are much better than when I have frozen them after a normal harvest.

Since they say you are not supposed to mulch until plants are brown, I am a bit confused. Maybe I don't have to mulch in a valley? What a fine gift of weather that would be!

Dr. Jane, a regular contributor, is a Master Forest Owner and certified Tree Farmer. She has a private consulting practice in Occupational Therapy and Naturopathic Medicine. She teaches on the Faculty of Health at Indianapolis University.

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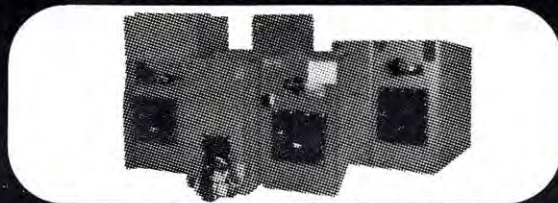
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WOODLOT CALENDAR

Jan 7: CDC; 1PM; Timber Theft; By Ron Pedersen; Town Library, Colonie; 518/753-4336.

JAN 17: WFL; 7:30PM; General Mtg.; Education Center, Highland Ave; 716/367-2849.

Jan 27: NFC; 10 AM; Woodski & snowshoe; Beaver Meadows; N. Java; 716/832-3611

Feb 7: SAC; 7PM; THE NORTHERN FOREST - Lecture; Co-Author David Dobbs; 518/792-6508

FEB 10,11:CAY; 10AM; **CABIN FEVER FESTIVAL**; Fillmore Glen State Park, Moravia, 315/497-1078.

Feb 17: CDC; 7:30PM; Timber Theft; Bob Allen; Columbia-Greene Community College; 518/753-4336.

Feb 17: NFC; 10 AM; TBA

Feb 21-24: SEVENTH AMERICAN FOREST CONGRESS; Washington, DC; 203/432-5117

Apr 27: **NYFOA SPRING MEETING**, Marshall Hall SUNY/ESF, Syracuse

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