

The New York

FOREST OWNER

A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association

May/June 1996

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IN THE ROBERTS FAMILY

THE NEW YORK
FOREST OWNERS
ASSOCIATION

VOL. 34, NO. 3
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COVER: MOHAWK BREAKUP, one of a photographic series entitled "Winterscapes" by Patricia Kay © 1986. The poem is a collaboration by Dorothy Darling. See page 8.

FOREST OWNER

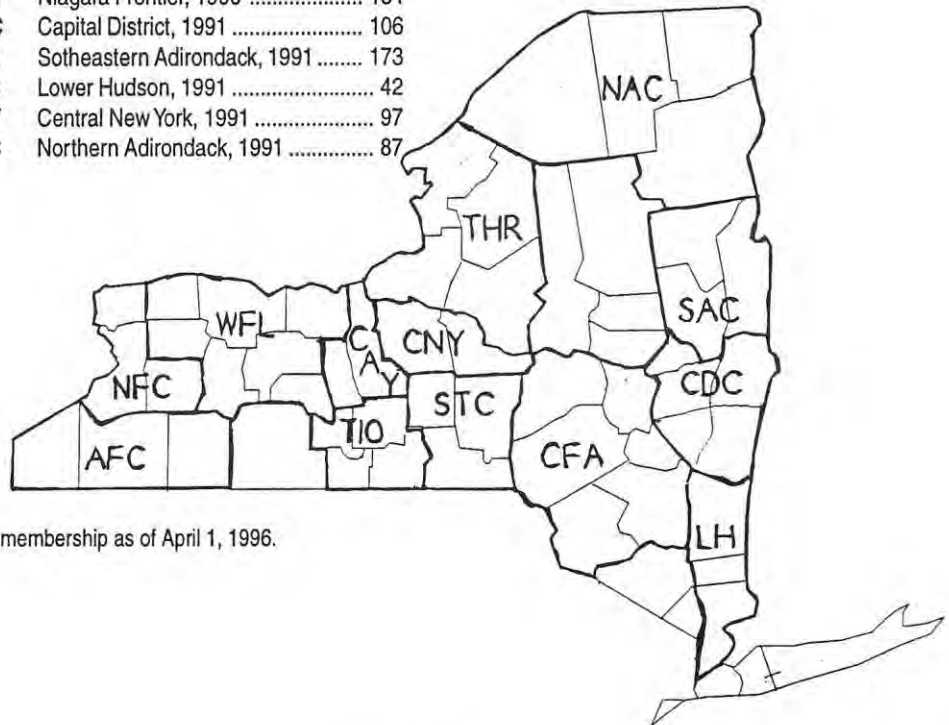
A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association
Editorial Committee: Betty Densmore, Chair, Alan Knight, Jim Minor, Bob Sand,
and Eileen VanWie.

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I had started the president's message for this edition when I received the news that Harriet Hamilton had passed away while on a trip to Hawaii. Needless to say I was shocked and saddened. I have known the Hamiltons for about 5 years through articles they have written and presentations they have made at various forestry functions. It was not until last year that I began to interact with them directly as they assumed the Co-Chair of the Tree Farm program. Harriet and Jack attended our last Board of Directors Meeting last January to bring us up-to-date on their plans to move the Tree Farm forward. During this meeting the board of directors voted to have NYFOA become a sponsor of the Tree Farm Program.

If I had a single word to describe Harriet it would be tenacious. She grabbed hold of life and seemed to wring every pleasure she could out of it. Despite ailments that began to limit her mobility, she still remained active and pursued her visions of the future. She and Jack were very proud of their farm that had been passed down to them. I particularly enjoyed seeing the photos taken on the farm in the 1930's displayed along side recent pictures that defined sixty years of impassioned stewardship. They also acknowledged the hard work and support of their son who became the instrument to achieve their visions.

From our NYFOA family, our deepest sympathy to Jack and the Hamilton family. We will miss you, Harriet.

What ever happen to SIP? Well, there is good news and bad news. SIP has been funded for 1996 (the good news); however, funding for New York State is well below past years (the bad news). At a recent CNY Chapter meeting, John Clancy, DEC Cortland, gave us an overview of the status of SIP and reviewed projects that can be funded. If you are interested in information regarding funding levels in your county, call your regional DEC office.

Several years ago, I had the opportunity to meet the Childs Family, members of the Allegheny Foothills Chapter. I was impressed with their efforts to develop commercial markets for their home grown blueberries. Peter Childs at that time was developing an orchard of Chinese Chestnut trees with the intention of marketing the nuts. In a recent AFC newsletter, Peter provided an update on this project that I found very interesting.

Peter describes the goal of this project as "to develop a cottage industry based on growing Chinese chestnuts and improve



President Bill Miner

marketing to capture (a portion) of the 23 million pound import market for Chestnuts." He went on to describe the efforts of clearing an old orchard, planting trees and experiments in harvesting the nut crop. While developing a cash crop he also realized that the chestnuts were viewed by the forest animals as a wildlife enhancement. If the nuts were not harvested in a timely manner, deer, turkeys and squirrels would complete the job with cool efficiency.

Growing a market for the chestnuts will take some time. However, it looks like they have had good success in their first efforts for they made \$2500 on the crop. Peter states that this money will be useful in paying taxes or reinvested into other improvements on the farm. My best wishes to the Childs family in this venture!

I am pleased to inform members of the progress that has been made in developing a NYFOA scholarship fund at SUNY ESF. Charlie Mowatt has spearheaded this project with ESF. A final contract with the college should be signed soon. Thanks to Charlie for the great idea and efforts to bring this scholarship to reality.

I Always Enter The Woods With Awe

I always enter the woods with awe;
My feet are slippred with caution;
I watch the trees bend to bless the stream
That sparkles and curves away like a dream.

Butterflies appear to taunt my restraints,
Flaunting their colours in spiral flights;
Saplins rise struggling from elders' sowing,
Twisting in their haste for growing.

Perhaps it is here where sermons are born
With elements for the morning text,
A gown of willow in which to preach
In a silent language of divine speech.



- Dorothy Darling

OF WOODS & PEOPLE IN THE ROBERTS FAMILY

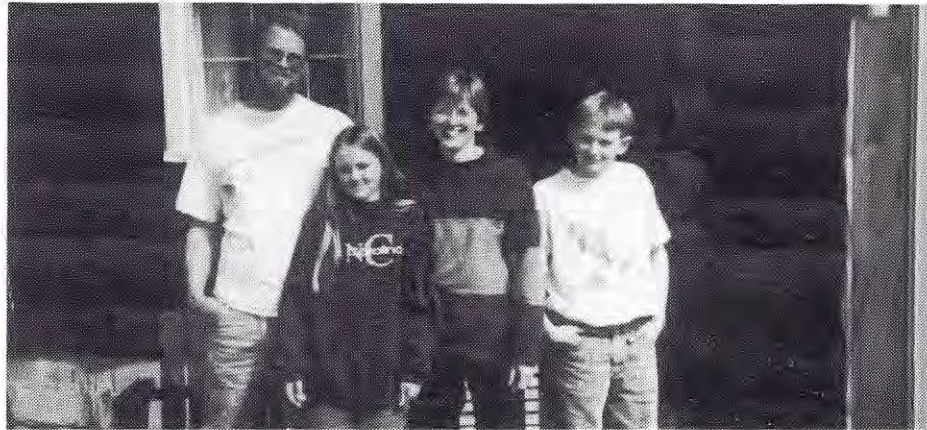
By Al Roberts

It was 1967 and Moira and I bought 90 acres of woods and fields in the Town of Groton, Tompkins County. I know it was 1967 because it was the year that our daughter, Mary, was born, Mary and the woods have both developed nicely over the years, thanks to much thought and effort on the part of Moira and me. It is interesting to note that last year we made our first reproductive cut in the woods, and this year Mary is having a baby. Now let me tell you about the woods and how we got where we are, and maybe next month Moira will tell you about Mary.

When we bought the woods, it was fifty to sixty years old (from counting growth rings in the stumps), and even-aged. Several big, old, pasture-type sugar maple had been harvested. There were two timber types. One was clump soft maple with an occasional scrawny black cherry (which we have now released). This area had been plowed and cultivated for a few years as evidenced by plow lines, stone walls, and stone piles. The second type was hard maple, beech, and cherry with a light scattering of ash and basswood. This area had never been plowed but was heavily pastured as was the soft maple area. The big, old scattered hard maple had provided shade for the cows and when the cows were removed, they provided seed for what is now our woods.

When we bought it, it wasn't a real great woods - too thick, branchy in some places, and small; only six to ten inches for the bigger trees, but it had a pretty good scattering of black cherry, and that was what really caught my eye. Plus it was flat to gently sloping, and thus was navigable by the only rolling stock we owned - an old two-wheel drive pickup truck.

The first job to be done on our new acquisition, one which is too often neglected by new owners, was to find out **exactly**



Son Bill, Bill's family, and their log house.

where it was. We couldn't afford a professional survey, but we had a good deed description. Luckily we are in farming country, so using the deed and aerial photos, we were able to locate old wire fences, sometimes buried in the leaf litter, and old fence corners. Then with bright colored paint blazes, we marked the boundaries so that we, and any potential trespasser, could easily see them.

A forester by profession and inclination, I then started a program of timber stand improvement (TSI). For the first few acres, we got a cost-sharing payment from the (then) A.C.P., but we found that we could process the cut trees into firewood and small fence posts which we could sell for profit. So from then on there were no government cost-sharing payments. However, I did have something more valuable than an ACP payment to help with the TSI and firewood processing - namely, a fourteen year old son named Bill. It didn't all happen at once, but eventually the operation involved a three year old younger son, Jim, wife Moira (age, a secret), my eighty year old father, and off and on, a daughter or two.

As the sons got older, they needed a summer job (I figured), and some of their friends wanted to work. So we bought a

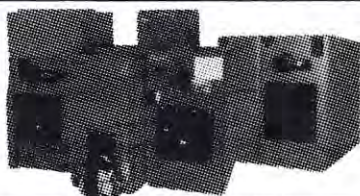
four wheel drive pickup and an old farm tractor and we were soon making and selling three hundred fireplace cords of wood a year. We quickly ran out of thinning on our first lot; we then bought another fifty acre woodlot and also bought stumpage from nearby owners. Eventually our own woods were thinned two or three times. But then, through the natural course of events, our organization began to disintegrate. Bill graduated from high school and went to work in Alaska. Jim went to college and dear old Dad died. We still cut some wood every year (slower), but the glory days are over.

Our woods, however, are getting to look pretty nice, because at each thinning, we cut the poorer trees and left the better. Poorer means shorter, or diseased, or less valuable species. We never lost a tree to the beech bark disease (see NY FOREST OWNER, Mar/Apr 1996) because we were familiar with the symptoms, we used the trees before they had a chance to decay. My favorite tree is black cherry, hence, at every thinning we favored cherry over the other species which resulted in an ever increasing proportion of cherry in the residual stand.

In 1976 (I wish I had done it sooner), I measured out three, one-quarter acre plots and numbered each tree and measured and recorded the diameter at breast height (DBH). We remeasured these periodically; the last time was in the fall of 1995. We did not take the time to define enough plots to make them statistically representative of the woods as a whole, but the plots did tell us a few things:

* No matter how heavily we thinned, down to sixty-five square feet of basal area,

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Moira and some firewood logs.

we could not get the hard maple to grow more than one inch in five years. We even tried fertilizer. However, the cherry grew two inches every five years. Both the hard maple and cherry slowed the growth rate as they grew older and larger. It began to take six years to grow the one and two inches, respectively.

* Over the nineteen years that we measured the plots, we reduced the total number of trees **per acre** from two hundred-forty-three to one hundred-twenty-one, while the basal area remained about the same. We didn't grow any more wood by thinning, but we put the wood on fewer and better trees.

* The trees removed were used to make firewood and amounted to fourteen standard cords **per acre**.

* In 1976, the woods contained twenty-five cords **per acre** and in 1995 there were thirty-eight cords per acre. This means our woods produced twenty-seven cords per acre in nineteen years, or 1.4 cords per acre per year. That seems like a lot, but that is what the figures show!

In 1987 we (Moira and I) made a 100% cruise of our sixty-five acres of woods. That means we measured and recorded every tree eight inches in diameter and larger. Consequently, we knew how many of each species we had in each size class in 1987, plus the total board foot volume and an estimate of value. It showed that we have almost four times as many hard maple trees as cherry trees but a greater board foot volume of cherry by one and one-quarter times. So how about those cherry trees!

Now, if you are still with me, let me bring you up to date on the Roberts' family and point out a big problem we have in the long term management of our woods as represented by the aforementioned figures.

Bill came back from Alaska, married a school teacher, built their own log home on our property (we sold them ten acres)



Firewood seasoning.

and had two children. He now works for the "Operations" crew for NYS DEC out of the Cortland office. Jim graduated from SUNY/ESF and has his own consulting forestry business in Pennsylvania, got married to a nurse, and they have four children. Moira and I are still at it, but older and slower. Besides the woods, we are all partners in thirty acres of Christmas trees.

Now, the management problem on our timber land. Although the trees in our woods are all about the same age, there are two very different size classes, because the maple grows at half the rate of growth of the cherry. We have many eighteen through twenty-four inch cherry, but few maple that are even eighteen inches. The obvious solution would be to cut the big cheery and let the small maple grow - and I could use the money! But I am not going to do that, and the reason I'm not gets kind of mixed up among silviculture, stewardship, love of family, and faith in Bill's carrying out the plans we make together for the future of the woods.

As to the silviculture: the cherry are single trees closely surrounded by maple. Cut a cherry and the resulting hole will be quickly filled in by the existing maple. Keep doing this and - no more cherry. But remember I like cherry. It grows twice as fast as maple, and is worth more. So a year ago, Bill and I started on our long-term plan to perpetuate cherry. We made our first reproduction cut. This is where stewardship takes

over, because these little cherry trees we are trying to get started won't be ready for harvest in my lifetime, or Bill's, or even Bill's children's. But whatever our motivation, we are doing it. What we did was to make a small (only three quarters of an acre) cut. It will serve as a test, sample, or demonstration for future cuts.

We selected a spot where there were a couple of big cherry, some pretty big maple

and the rest, smaller maples, and we clear cut it. We clearcut because cherry needs full sunlight to germinate and grow and we very much want to keep cherry in the next stand. We could have waited another ten years to start our reproduction cuts, but I wanted to be sure I was here for the occasion.

To augment our harvest to make it more interesting for timber buyers, we cut a few trees from the adjoining stand. These were larger trees in the stand, but of poorer quality - forked or damaged in some way. We cut and skidded and bucked these up ourselves. We had ten thousand board feet, and with active bidding, we got nearly \$10,000 roadside. Besides that, we made twenty cords of eighteen inch firewood from the tops and trees too small for sawtimber. In due time, and when the market is good, we will select another suitable spot and make another clearcut, and so on... But for the next few years, we will be watching closely to see if we are going to be successful in our effort to reproduce cherry.

But don't picture us sitting down, because there is still wood to be cut and thinning to be made. And remember the second purchase of fifty acres? That is another story, one that Jim is involved in.

Al Roberts, winner of the NYFOA Service Award in 1986, is retired from a career with the NYS DEC culminating in the position of Regional Forester for Region 7. Al served many years as the NY FOREST OWNER Editor for the "Ask A Forester" column.

Elm Spanworm, A Frequent Visitor to Eastern Forests

by Douglas Allen

Forest pests often are difficult for landowners to identify, but the task may become even more arduous when a common name seems misleading. The situation is especially challenging for culprits known by

worm annually. As a matter of fact, the English sparrow was introduced to check the outbreaks in one of our first attempts at biological control. Because the moths are bright white and because J. A. Lintner, New York's well known State Entomologist in

most recent elm spanworm invasion of New York's southern tier region are well aware that this insect readily defoliates tree species other than basswood and elm; most especially apple, walnut, beech, oaks, hickory, maple, and ash.

More than 20 major outbreaks have occurred in the last century. The most recent episode during the early 1990s (e.g., Pennsylvania reported 30-100% defoliation over more than 1.3 million acres in 1994!) was preceded by an outbreak in the early 1970s when extensive defoliation occurred to mixed hardwood forests in southeastern New York and central Connecticut.



Fig. 1. Elm spanworm moth.

more than one name! Dutch elm disease and elm phloem necrosis have reduced the occurrence of American elm, once a common eastern shade tree, to a fraction of its former abundance. How, then, can we have large scale outbreaks today of an insect that feeds on elm? Is the common name of this defoliator a misnomer? Common names can be deceiving; hence, the value of ap-

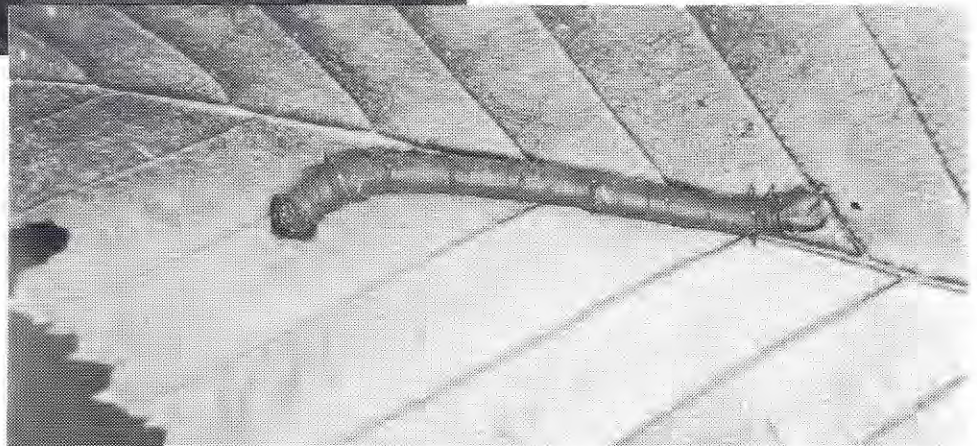


Fig. 3. Elm spanworm.

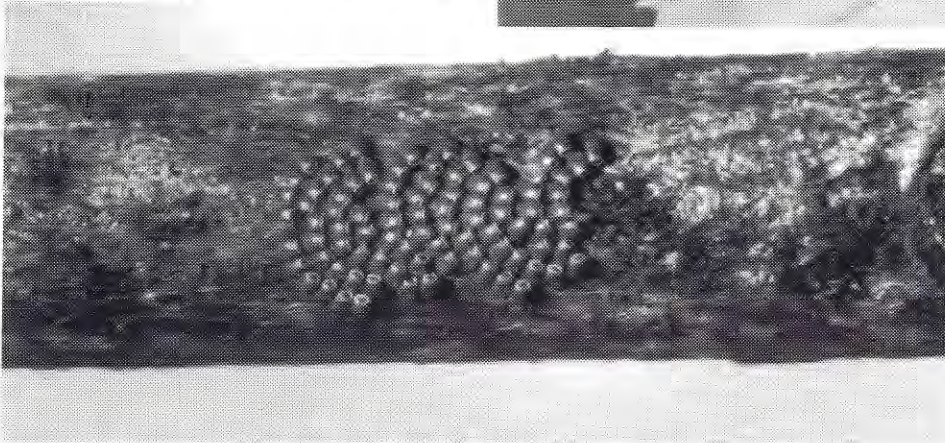


Fig. 2. Cluster of elm spanworm eggs.

proved scientific (Latin) names, in this case *Ennomos subsignarius*. Even though a common name may vary in time or with geographic location, scientific designations generally should remain unchanged.

Records of defoliation by this native looper first appeared during the mid-1800s. At the time shade trees in many eastern cities, notably Brooklyn and Philadelphia, experienced extensive defoliation by span-

the 1880s, believed basswood to be the principal host, initially it was labeled the "snow-white linden moth". Later, when it became a major shade tree problem at a time when elm was prevalent in the east, it took on its current designation.

Hosts and Outbreaks

Landowners who have experienced the

Life History

Elm spanworm overwinters as an egg, and the caterpillars emerge in mid-May to late April, depending on geographic location. Young caterpillars chew holes in leaves and create a shot-hole effect, older individuals eat the whole leaf except for the midrib and petiole.

Caterpillars complete feeding in a month or so and then each pupates (pew-pates) in a net-like silk cocoon, usually attached to a partially eaten leaf. When moths are active during late July to early August, they are apt to disperse in large numbers from infested forests into urban areas. Moths were so abundant during an outbreak in the Catskills in the early 1900s that flights into nearby villages and as far away as New York City were reminiscent of a "summer snowstorm"! Soon after mating, females deposit a clutch of 20 to 200 or more eggs on the underside of branches. Each egg is deposited at an oblique angle and leans

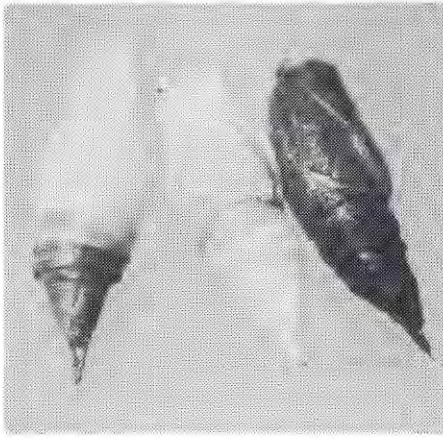


Fig. 4. Spanworm pupae, note color variation.

against an adjacent egg, and the egg cluster looks like a pile of leaning bricks attached to the bark.

Description

The powdery white moths (Fig. 1) have slender bodies and a wing span of 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 inches. The barrel-shaped eggs (Fig. 2) are slightly less than 1/16" long, light olive when first laid and turn dark with age. Each egg has an amber colored ring on the exposed end. When full-grown, the hairless, twig-like caterpillar is 1 3/4 to 2 inches long. Its body is usually slate black (a small proportion of a population may be light colored) and the head is reddish orange or rusty (Fig. 3). In dense populations pupae usually are dark, but a significant number may be light to white when numbers are sparse. Each pupa is approximately 5/8" long (Fig. 4).

Damage

As is the case with most defoliators, the consequences of one or more years of defoliation varies depending on whether other stresses occur during that growing season, the level of defoliation, site conditions, and stand disturbance history. A combination of heavy defoliation early in the growing season and drought (events that occurred in many regions of NY during 1995), for example, greatly increases the probability of tree mortality. Two or more years of heavy defoliation (i.e., greater than 70%) by itself may result in mortality, trees that survive exhibit growth loss and, often, crown dieback.

Natural Control

Typically outbreaks eventually succumb to mortality from a complex of natural agents, most especially an egg parasite and, in the most recent infestations in NY and PA, larval disease.

Management Options

A number of chemical insecticides are registered for use against elm spanworm, but during the most recent outbreak good control was achieved with the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* ("Bt"), a more acceptable option environmentally. Whether or not and in what manner a stand should be treated depends on the owner's objectives, environmental concerns and occurrence of multiple stresses, such as defoliation in conjunction with other recent natural "disturbances" or forest management

activities. When heavy spanworm defoliation threatens a woodlot, it especially may be prudent to protect foliage if trees have been previously stressed (i.e., within the last three years experienced heavy defoliation, drought, extensive silvicultural treatment, and/or exist on marginal site conditions) and the owner's objective is to produce syrup or sawlogs.

This is the 26th in the series of articles contributed by Dr. Allen, Professor of Entomology at SUNY/ESF.

JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT

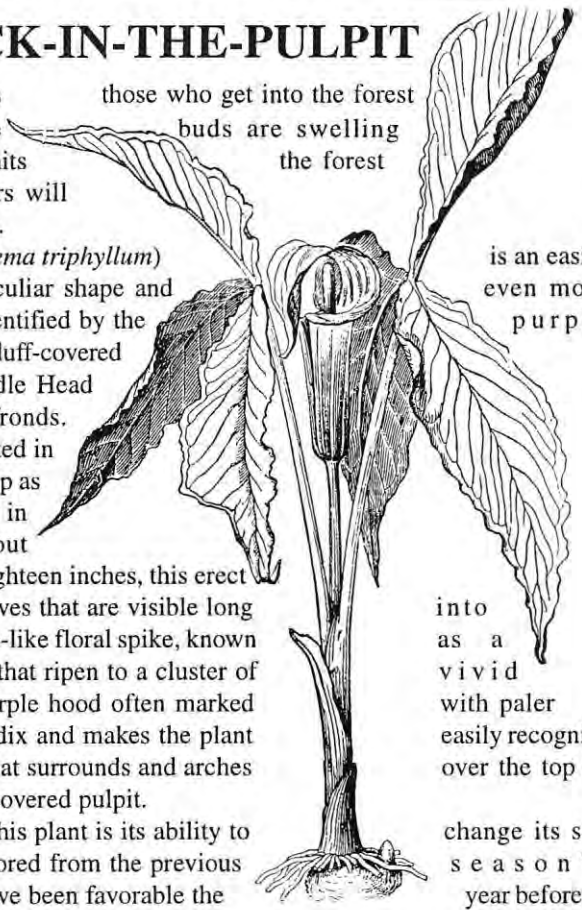
A spectacular show awaits those who get into the forest in early spring. While the tree buds are swelling over head, the warming sun hits the forest floor and forest wildflowers will show themselves once again.

Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) recognized plant with a peculiar shape and peculiar habits. It can be identified by the cone that protrudes from the duff-covered forest floor just as the Fiddle Head ferns start to unroll their fronds. Though it is rare and protected in some states, the Indian Turnip as it is also known, is common in moist woodlands throughout New York. Growing up to eighteen inches, this erect plant has two, three-part leaves that are visible long summer. The "Jack" is a club-like floral spike, known spadix. It bears the flowers that ripen to a cluster of red berries. A green and purple hood often marked with white stripes covers the spadix and makes the plant able. The spathe, or hood, that surrounds and arches over the spadix does resemble a covered pulpit.

One amazing feature of this plant is its ability to in response to the energy stored from the previous growth. When conditions have been favorable the is apt to grow as a female and use its stored energy seeds, thereby increasing its survival rate. If it was a dry season and energy stores are low, it will either be neutral or a male. This allows the plant to concentrate on survival rather than reproduction. Older and healthier plants usually grow as females due to the large energy reserves.

The rounded underground root-like corm was both food and medicine for early settlers and Native Americans. Ring worm, snake bite, tuberculosis, bronchitis, asthma, headache, and sore throat were all treated with this plant. Though due to the calcium oxalate that Jack-in-the-pulpit contains, roasting was required to reduce the acidity and make the plant more useful. A small slice of the raw root is much more corrosive than an equal amount of ingested chili powder. The corm packs such a wallop, that even when roasted, it is necessary to let them dry for four to five minutes to reduce the burning sensation. This helps to explain why Native Americans waited until autumn to use the plant that was harvested in early spring.

This article was adapted from a similar article which appeared in CFA NEWS (Vol 14 No 1)), the newsletter of the Catskill Forest Association.



is an easily even more purple

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change its sex season's year before, it to produce energy

Who are We and Why are We Here?

A discussion of the need for getting beyond the NIPF "Choir" and into the larger forest landowner congregation



By John Marchant

Recently, 26 affiliates of the National Woodland Owners' Association (NWOA) were mailed a survey. Our mission was simple: We wanted to find out how these organizations, which represent many - but not all - regions of the country, view the role of Nonindustrial Private Forest landowners (NIPFs).

Specifically, we asked these affiliates to address in some detail the following six areas of interest: Why are NIPF landowners important to the organization?; What programs and/or services are offered to NIPF landowners?; How successful have these programs been?; What are the organization's future plans for addressing NIPF issues? and finally, What vision does the organization have of NIPF management in the future?

Twenty-four of the 26 surveys mailed were completed and returned. Solid responses were received from the Northeast, the North Central states and the Northwest, along with a few scattered states represented across the Midwest.

The answer to the first question on the survey about why NIPF landowners are important, might best be summed up by recalling the famous line from the Pogo cartoon strip: "We have met the enemy and he is us."

To address the second question, the organizations were asked to rank the following seven programs/services in order of their importance in providing value and incentive to NIPF landowners in their states:

- * Annual membership Meetings;
- * Periodic Magazine and/or Newsletters;
- * Educational Woodswalks

* How-To Workshops which Emphasize Stewardship

* Lecture Programs about: Aesthetics, Wildlife, Recreation, Timber Growth, and Harvesting;

* Free or Cost Shared Memberships to Get Acquainted;

* Information Services: Books, Pamphlets, Videos, Forestry Information, Databases, etc.

Table 1 shows what we found, by listing the *number* of organizations which placed respective programs at a given value level.

For example, nine associations gave "Workshops" a priority 3 ranking, while 17 ranked "Magazines/Newsletters" as priority 1 and the remaining 7 organizations ranked it as 2. It is important to note that not all categories add up to 24, because not all organizations used every program/service listed. The category "Other" was available in the survey, but no one used it.

Clearly magazines and newsletters are the most valued products that the NIPF landowner associations offer their constituents. Frequent contact with members seems to be the single most important factor associations can use in maintaining interest in the organization. Contact with landowners, in other words, is a key to their continued participation.

Annual meetings had the second greatest number of priority 1 and 2 rankings in the survey. All other programs and services appear to be reasonably well offered and used by a number of organizations, with the least popular being "Cost Shared Mem-

berships" at 13 out of 24.

When asked how they planned to better serve their NIPF members in the future, the organizations generally indicated an intention to provide a more effective mix of programs and services, along with a strong emphasis on tax reform. Indeed, success in the areas of tax and regulatory reform were overwhelmingly cited when responding to the question, "What is your most important accomplishment for better serving the needs of NIPFs. The second most popular accomplishment involved making programs and services available at a more local level. This is particularly important when you consider that many of these organizations have an influence on forestry issues and practices that extends far beyond their immediate membership. Positively influencing the direction of taxation and regulation, for example, helps all NIPFs within a particular legislative area.

Most of the landowner associations reported that they view cooperative efforts with other organizations and agencies as very important to their success. The U.S. Forest Service, state Department of Natural Resources or equivalent, Cooperative Extension, SAF, NACF, NWOA, AFA and Tree Farm, AF&PA, and RC&Ds were all mentioned to various degrees as being helpful in the past and important in the future.

Survey respondents expressed a common desire for help in reaching more of the NIPF community. Many commented that the recent emphasis on a national stewardship image - and the associated incentive programs - had been beneficial in reaching and influencing a new crop of

Table 1: How organizations ranked NIPF services*

Priority	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Annual Meetings	5	7	4	4	2		1
Magazines/Newsletters	17	7					
Woodswalks	1	4	8	2	3		1
Workshops		5	9	3	2		1
Lecture Programs		1	1	8	5		1
Cost Share Memberships	1		2	2	1	4	3
Information Services		1	1	4	4	6	3

*Rankings represent *number* of associations assigning a specific priority.

nonindustrial private forest owners. They cautioned, however, that the uncertain future of some of these programs could have a disastrous effect on long term NIPF involvement and interest in the issues. Encouraging people to invest their personal resources in cost-share programs which are then cut or dropped back as a result of politics rather than science, for example, can leave deep, permanent scars of distrust if not disdain.

Now let's generate a composite profile of the landowner associations that chose to participate in this survey.

The average association contains 807 members - a number based on a total of 18,465 members in 24 organizations. The average association surveyed has existed for 35 years, with the median age being 20 years. Three organizations surveyed are more than 100 years old which may make the median a more meaningful measure.

Membership dues are the sole means of financing for 70 percent of the organizations we looked at, which indicates that they answer to no one but their own members and act as independent voices in their respective forestry communities.

Sixty-two percent of the organizations surveyed have a single central organization. In large geographical states, associations like the New York Forest Owners have found real advantages in having regional chapters which provide the opportunity for closer, more personal contact with both members and prospective members.

A mix of volunteer and paid staff keeps 62 percent of the NIPF associations operating. The remaining 38 percent rely on entirely volunteer staffs. The predominance of volunteer staffing throughout the history of these landowner organizations should make them valuable resources for information about how to effectively use volunteers in natural resource programs. This is an opportunity that has been long overlooked by many professional agencies and organizations.

How are these organizations doing in the member recruitment department? By taking the total number of members in the survey and dividing by the cumulative number of organization years, the average organization has gained 23 members per year. The range of that growth across 24 individual associations varied from four to 157 members per year. All things considered this seems rather meager.

Another interesting - but disturbing - statistic is the attrition or dropout rate of

members. Unfortunately, the question about attrition was not clearly expressed in the survey and it was not therefore possible to arrive at a meaningful average for attrition. Still, anyone familiar with forest landowner associations is aware of the problem.

One organization for which we did have hard numbers - the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) - will hopefully serve as a useful example.

During the past six year period, NYFOA grew from approximately 1,100 to 1,800 members, aided by the capable efforts of several volunteer leaders who brought considerable management experience from both the public and private sectors. Eight new regional chapters were formed and all the programs and services already discussed were used extensively. The magazine was improved and the organization established excellent working relationships with most of the agencies and organizations throughout the forestry community.

In short, the past six years represent a period when many things seemed to have been done right.

The idea of getting private forestland into sound management one landowner at a time, through one-on-one contacts, is never going to bring us to the NIPF Promised Land.

So what did that all add up to? NYFOA grew at a rate of 115 members per year, from 1,100 to 1,800 *but lost* 1,345 over the same six year period. The organization had to recruit in excess of 200 members annually - just to stay even. In real terms, this means that it actually recruited about 325 members every year.

Assuming that New York State is not a unique case, this should be viewed as a very disturbing statistic. The one saving grace, when looking at the big picture, it may be that over that six year period nearly 2,000 landowners were introduced to the advantages of managing forest land and the associated stewardship principals. The fact that many chose not to continue supporting an organization dedicating to advancing those principals, however, is a serious matter to ponder.

Before finally addressing the question, "How successful were the programs and services landowner associations used to

serve NIPF needs?", it's necessary to look at another part of the NIPF picture.

Many estimates have been made about how many NIPFs are active participants in the stewardship movement. The usual criteria includes such things as having a working management plan, membership in forestry organizations, advocating the process, or all of the above. Whether the calculations have been done on a state-by-state basis or nationally, the answer always comes out to about five percent.

Prominent NIPF leaders have pointed out that there are about ten million NIPFs across the country and the number is growing every day. By this calculation there should be 500,000 landowners active nationally in the stewardship process to some degree; most informed observers doubt that the number is anywhere near that high.

Even if the five percent estimate is correct, that still leaves 95 percent of NIPFs (9.5 million) uninvolved or unidentified. They never see, nor hear, nor listen to the stewardship side of the story. Most of us involved in interactions with the NIPF community spend all of our resources on that five percent or so of the group which is already converted. We often refer to them as the "Choir" and frequently convince ourselves that we really are working with the whole population.

It seems to me that we have to stop talking about the NIPFs as a homogeneous group. We must begin to understand that 95 percent of them are truly UFOs (Unidentified Forest Owners). As the numbers discussed earlier suggest, we have all been spectacularly unsuccessful at finding and interesting UFOs in becoming stewards of our most valuable renewable resource.

We have no such trouble, on the other hand, adding up the resources that could come from 100 percent of all NIPF forest lands in the future. We are already counting on a 20 percent increase in the resources

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coming from NIPF lands by the year 2020, to meet projected market needs. Unless these lands are much better managed than they are today, I seriously doubt that either the quantity or quality of that valuable resource will meet those projections. Landowner associations and all the other forestry agencies and organizations don't have a chance to meet that goal using the methods and tools we've used to date. Without fundamental change we'll only continue to make incremental progress.

So what about the future? To be successful, we will have to change our collective thinking about who NIPFs really are and begin targeting that enormous group of unidentified forest owners. The idea of getting private forestland into sound management one landowner at a time, through one-on-one contacts, is never going to bring us to the NIPF Promised Land.

Obviously, we have to generate enough interest among UFOs so that they will want to hear our story. The sheer numbers involved require that we figure out a way for them to figure out who we are and want to find us. We need a cultural change toward

Let's never forget that the "Choir", which landowner associations are greatly responsible for, will always be a cornerstone in the future of forestry in this country.

forestry in all its flavors. Until we have one, we are only going to incrementally crawl toward the full potential of the greatest renewable resource on this earth.

This is not a new thought by any means, but the time has clearly come to finally do something about it. It is possible to make a cultural change. Such a new awareness has clearly happened with the attitude and support for the health and well being of the overall environment.

So where do we start? None of us can do it alone in our respective organizations and agencies. It's going to take some very creative networking into some very deep pockets, because we're talking about nothing less than very persuasive television advertising on a local and national level.

One interesting example is going on right now. It's an advertising campaign to raise the image of - not a product but a material: plastics. The vast majority of Americans with television sets have probably seen it at least once. Some people are

paying a lot of money up front today to ensure the marketability of their specific products tomorrow. Another ongoing media campaign, promoting milk, aims to accomplish the same goal. We don't need to increase the public's image of the value of wood. But we do need to greatly improve America's image of how and where that valuable material (wood) is obtained. We may also glean some ideas from the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) that the American Forest & Paper Association is planning to roll out this spring, which has a significant TV advertising component. Bob Simpson of the American Tree Farm System has looked into the possibilities of attracting some celebrity advertising which has very real potential. You may recall that Ralph Waite of "The Waltons" fame and Eddy Arnold of "Green Acres" each did some pro forestry ads in print and on TV some years back. We should review what impact they had.

Because there is so much at stake, we need to take a very serious look at all possible alternatives to reaching UFOs and interesting them in the better management of their forest resources.

Finally, I'd like to say that I believe NIPF landowner associations are doing a fine job. Even though the numbers are small, a substantial percentage of the "Choir" is the direct result of their continuing efforts. Serious consideration should be given to holding a three-day workshop for all landowner associations from every state including a representative from those that don't already have one.

After, seeing the results of the limited survey discussed here, I'm convinced the exchange of ideas in such a workshop would be invaluable. Consider it seed money with a guaranteed return.

Let's never forget that the "Choir", which landowner associations are greatly responsible for, will always be a cornerstone in the future of forestry in this country.

John Marchant is a member of NYFOA's Western Finger Lakes Chapter and winner of both the NYFOA Service Award (in 1991 with his wife, Helen) and the Heiberg Award (1995). John, currently, is the Northeastern Vice-President of the National Woodland Owners Association. This article will appear in the April edition of NATIONAL WOODLANDS, Eric Johnson, Editor, who adapted it from John's remarks delivered at the Symposium On NIPFs (see page 10, this issue)

ETHICS IN FORESTRY

Edited by Lloyd C. Irland

This far-ranging collection of cogent readings examines professional, business, environmental, and government ethics as they apply to forestry. Drawn from diverse periodicals, the book provides readers with tools to build their own skills in ethical reflection. The editor, a forestry consultant (see the NY FOREST OWNER J/F '96), ties the chapters together with introductions that provide a warm, human voice challenging the reader to cultivate awareness and act courageously.

468 pp, 6x9", hardcover, \$39.95. Order from TIMBER PRESS, INC.; 133 S.W. Second Avenue, Suite 450; Portland, OR 97204 or phone 1-800-327-5680.

NEW VIDEOTAPE

The videotape, "Biodiversity for Forests and Farms", is designed for natural resource management professionals, land-use planners, agriculturists, forest owners, rural landowners, environmental educators, and others interested in protecting and enhancing biodiversity for forests and farms. Colorful graphics, outdoor settings, and wildlife scenes illustrate the many values of healthy ecosystems.

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NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER



The Central New York Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association is pleased to announce their annual **FAMILY FOREST FAIR** will be held this year on **June 8, 1996**.

The fair will be held at the Gurnee Woods on Chatfield Road, Elbridge, NY. Verner and Marjorie Hudson will again permit the use of their tree farm for the event.

The theme this year will be "**Forestry Education/Nature's Classroom**". The program will highlight colleges and universities in New York State that offer outstanding forestry and environmental science programs.

High school students and parents will find college personnel present to discuss forestry and environmental science related courses. Demonstrations by the colleges will exhibit their expertise and specialties of "**Nature's Classroom**".

Forestry experts and wildlife biologists will offer woodswalks; and wagon rides will provide people with a tour of the tree farm.

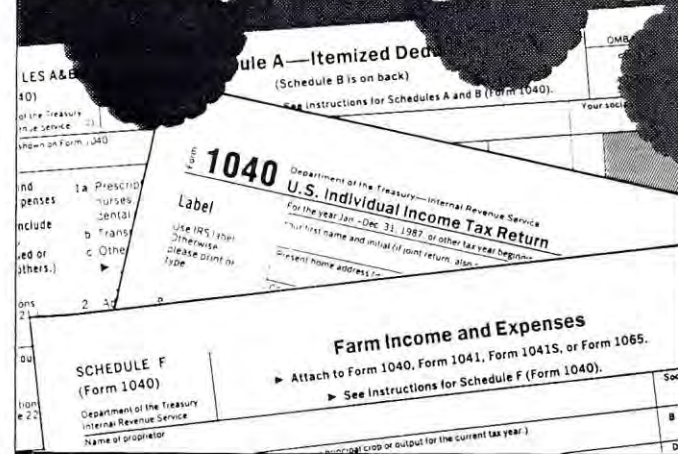
Vendors and crafters will exhibit and sell their forest related products and services; and various organizations will have displays and exhibits.

The proceeds from a 50/50 raffle will be awarded as a scholarship to one of the colleges present for that day for a student who resides in New York State.

Refreshments will be served including Hot Dogs, Hamburgs, and a Chicken Bar-B-Q. Take-out orders will be welcomed.

For further information contact: **VERNER HUDSON**, Chatfield Road; Elbridge, NY 13060; 315/689-3314.

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CHAPTERS/AFFILIATES

CAPITAL DISTRICT

The Capital District Chapter is sponsoring a Wildflower Woodswalk on **May 5**, at 2 PM at **Jack and Mary Brennan's** in Guilderland. The Brennans have been managing their woodlot for over 25 years, and there will be much to see of the benefits of management. Rare and common wildflowers of the season can be seen there and at a nearby area. Mary, an area naturalist, will lead the wildflower portion of the walk; DEC foresters will explain the woodlot management strategy.

A free Douglas Fir Seedling will be given to each woodwalker. The event is free and open to the public. For directions, contact **Jill Cornell**, 518/753-4336.

WESTERN FINGER LAKES

A very dear member of WFL died in March, **Harriet Hamilton**. I can't even begin to convey how much we will all miss her. The Western Finger Lakes Chapter would like to express our sincere condolences to Jack and all of Harriet's family.

Our January meeting was a success, with Dave and Beth Buckley. The presentation captured scenes of wildlife and wilderness encountered while canoeing throughout Algonquin Provincial Park in Canada.

Billy Morris and Keith Maynard spoke at our March meeting on something we would all like to go away - TAXES! They put countless hours into the brochure we distributed.

For our first woodswalk, some twenty people endured low temperatures at the Giles farm in Victor to learn about maple syruping.

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WILLIAM M. RODEN



Members of the Southeastern Adirondack Chapter were saddened by the recent death of Bill Roden. Bill was a staunch supporter of the New York Forest Owners Association and was instrumental in forming the SEA Chapter.

New York's Outstanding Tree Farmer for the Year 1989 and Conservationist of the Year for 1985 are just two of the prestigious awards won by Bill during a lifetime of dedication to conservation. He is fondly remembered as the "Adirondack Sportsman".

Bill is pictured with his son, Andy.

CAYUGA CHAPTER

The Cabin Fever Festival increased the number of participants by nearly double, mostly by Sportsmen Clubs (Members of the Cayuga County Federation of Conservation Clubs) and various crafts.

The chapter will hold a video program on Timber Theft and a special video, "Wood As A Global Resource", April 9th. And **May 11**, there is planned a Wildflower Woodswalk at Lfee Signor's Woodlot starting at 10 AM. For directions, call 315/497-1078.



Cam Stuart works his wheel at the 1996 Cabin Fever Festival.

HARRIET HAMILTON



New York has lost a guiding light for forest resource stewardship. Harriet Hamilton died March 25, 1996. She will be missed by all of us who have benefited from knowing her. She and her husband, Jack, have so nicely guided Tree Farm, encouraged fellow forest owners, and promoted better public understanding of forest management that they were awarded National Outstanding Tree Farmers for 1991 (see NYFO N/D '91) and made honorary members of the Society of American Foresters. They have been very credible spokespeople for our amazing renewable forest resource. Their public presence often leads us to forget that they have managed their own forest in exemplary fashion. Let's all have a moment of silence for Harriet and convey support and sympathy to Jack.

- Mike Greason

Seldom do we have the pleasure and luxury to know a lady like Harriet Hamilton. I first made Harriet's acquaintance in June of 1972. Since then, a lasting friendship bloomed. Although I was on the Hamilton property to render forest management advice, I received far more than I ever gave. Harriet gave me an appreciation for some of the more minute facets of nature which was lacking in my formal education. I recall one incident in which I had placed a large glob of tree-marking paint on a large clump of Shad bush, signaling it for removal. Harriet apprised me in terms that I could easily comprehend, that she did not want that or any other shad bushes removed because of their value to wildlife.

Harriet lived her life with enthusiasm. She was involved in each and every activity as though it was the most important one. She and her husband, Jack, set a national standard for what a Tree Farmer should be and what it takes to be a National Award Winner. If my daughter can achieve a fraction of this lady's accomplishments, I could not be more proud. Harriet, I'm going to miss you.

- Billy Morris

LETTERS

PRE-FOREST?

I enjoyed Norman Richard's article on tree planting in the Mar/Apr issue.

Considering all of the problems of planting seedlings for later timber, would it not make sense to plant nurse trees at an optimum spacing for effect (and economics) to establish a "pre-forest"?

By "pre-forest", I mean an easily established cover of trees perhaps with little or no subsequent commercial value. The more valuable hardwood species could be interplanted or seeded by natural regeneration.

I would like to see this topic and related discussed by Dr. Richards or some other expert.

Nice job with the magazine.

-James N. Martin, Muenster, Germany

COMMITMENT

The following is a copy of my *individual commitment* as requested by The Seventh American Forest Congress:

My commitment to forestry is to have devoted 50 years and to anticipating the duration of the rest of my life to managing and caring for 1200 acres of forest land in upstate New York. Over the years I have returned hundreds of acres of abandoned farm land to healthy, growing forest. I have paid to support the local school and governments a third of a million dollars in property taxes. I have planted 75 acres with pine and spruce, and done 500 acres of forest stand improvement. I have given free of charge 21,400 spruce seedlings to my neighbors, conducted 21 woods walks, and written and published 325 articles about forestry in the local and national media. I have brought my five children to love and respect the forest. I allow free of charge, hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, horseback riding, and camping on my property and I have harvested 365,000 board foot of timber.

If there is any further commitment I can or should make, please let me know. I will close with my favorite line of my favorite poet:

*"Pallas quas condidit arces ipsa colat;
nobis placeant ante omnia silvas."*

-Virgil

(Let Pallas live in the cities she founded; before all else, our joy is in the forest.)

-Henry S. Kernan, S. Worcester

FOREST INCOME?

What can forest owners do with their property to earn income (to pay the taxes, at least) other than timbering; such as camping, hunting, X-co skiing, etc?

How do they set the fees and what about liability?

Joan Kappel, Altamont

TITLE TRANSFERS

How does one transfer title and ownership to someone and avoid the gift tax?

Jane Geisler, Verbank

CORRECTION

Regarding Forest Tax Law revocation in the Mar/Apr 1996 "Ask A Forester" article, the penalties are 2 1/2 or 5 times the taxes saved for up to the last 10 committed years, plus interest.

Gerard A. Kachmor, Kirkwood

NEW OSHA STANDARD

A new OSHA standard may "create a new level of responsibility for the forest manager..." who "...accepts the role of primary contractor when administering a timber sale for a landowner." The manager "may not cause a logging operator to knowingly violate the OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) standard through the manner in which the manager marks timber and lays out skid trails, landings, or other aspects of the harvest." Although protected from an OSHA citation, the owner may be liable under third-party tort law for any injury, fatality, or property loss that is incurred by the logging operator or workers. Forest owners and consulting foresters and their legal advisors may want to incorporate safety into the timber sale contract "by including a provision that the operator will perform the logging operation in compliance with the OSHA logging standard." Source: **The Occupational Safety and Health Administration Logging Standard: What it means for Forest Managers** by Myers and Fosbroke, JOURNAL OF FORESTRY, 11/95.

This brief was reprinted from CAPITAL IDEAS, Feb '96, the Newsletter of the Alabama Forest Owners Association, Inc.

MANAGEMENT PLANS

By Peter S. Levatich ©1996

There are all kinds. For example, a grocery list is a management plan. In the case of forest land, such a plan intends to reach objectives that benefit trees, or wild life, or water quality, or resource utilization, etc. In the case of a grocery list, the objective is to keep certain stomachs from growling based on what the circumstances are: have kitchen, bread and water; need potatoes, onions, carrots, etc. A plan is an intent; it is also a decision, in a way. One has decided to do something in a premeditated fashion to produce predictable results. Every plan starts from known givens, the situation as it exists, and intends certain action in order to achieve desired results.

Known conditions, an intent to alter them, a desired objective, a decision to act....

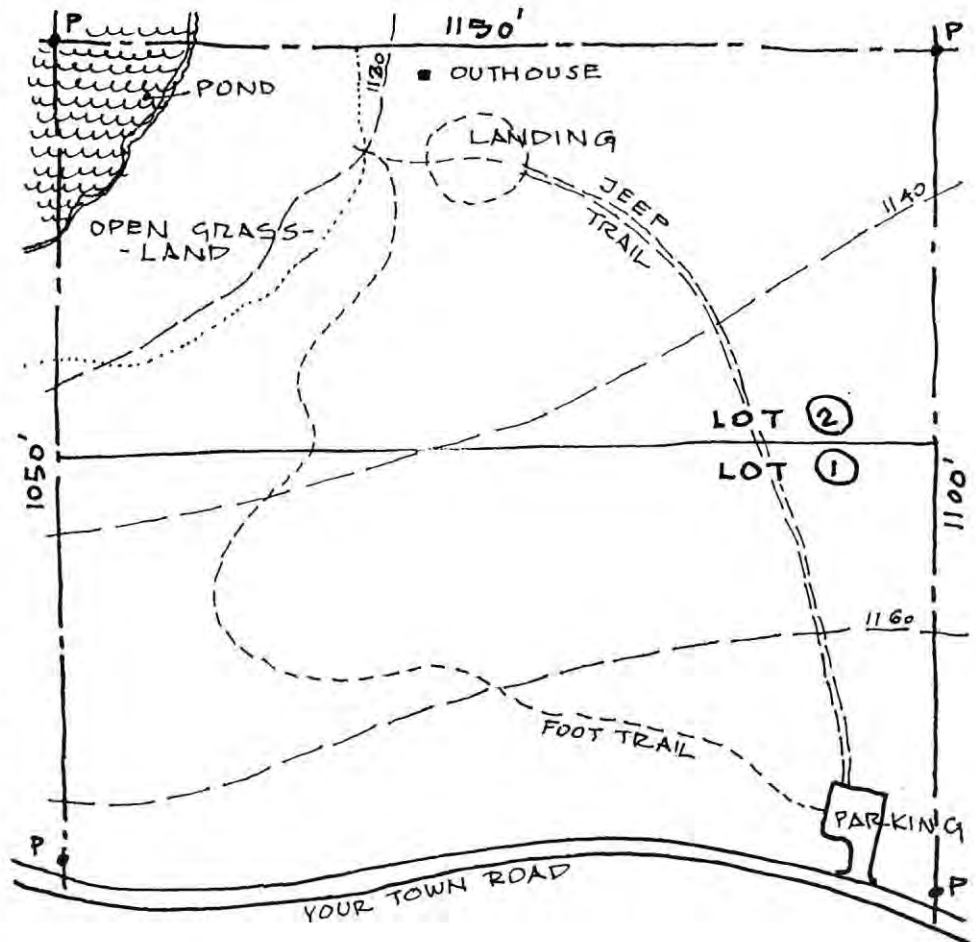
Man-age-ment n..1. the act, art, or manner of managing, or handling, controlling, directing, etc...

Plan n.: 1. a drawing or diagram showing the arrangement...2. a) a scheme or program for making, doing, or arranging something, b) a method of proceeding;...

We forest owners better have a management plan, otherwise our forest work will be haphazard over time. We only can keep general concepts, or simple things in memory. After all, many of us can go grocery shopping without a list, and come home with most of what is needed. But the forest and our work therein continues over many, many years and the management plan needs to be in writing. Believe me, you will not remember all you did, let alone all you should have done as intended, unless you have a written plan. You are a purposeful person, you do not waste time, you accomplish the right things, and your life is short. Surely, you have a written management plan for all your long term work!

I have included two illustrations. The first, *Figure 1*, is a management plan for a simple forest land; the second, *Figure 2* is for a more complex forest land. The simple one may be on level ground covered with a uniform forest. It would be appropriate to have a simple plan there compared to the second case where the land is hilly, the forest composed of a variety of tree sizes, standing on a variety of soils, bisected by

FIGURE 1



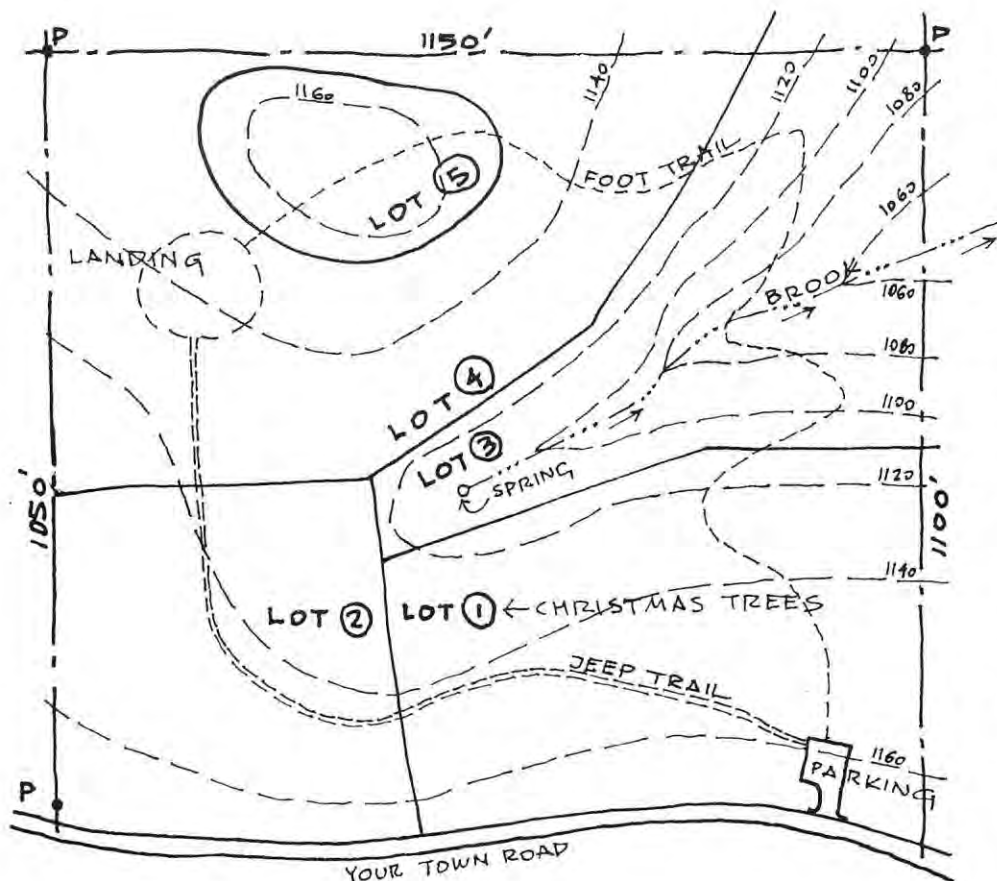
Management Plan for a forest with simple land features (an example only!):

- Year 1) Foot trail to pond, maintain open grass land.
- 2) Bird boxes, picnic area, outhouse, swimming dock at pond.
- 3) TSI in Lot 1, make firewood, maintain open grassland.
- 4) Plant red oaks in part of grassland.
- 5) TSI in Lot 2, make firewood, maintain open grassland.
- 6) Create large openings in both lots for regeneration, make firewood.
- 7) Clear jeep trail to landing area.
- 8) Check all regeneration. release and prune, maintain open grassland.
- 9) Cruise Lots 1 and 2 with consulting forester, mark as appropriate.
- 10) Timber harvest as marked; logs to mill, clear and reseed landing.

flowing water, for example. The two management plans illustrated include a sketch of the fictitious forest land and a description of what work is intended over time. This is only an example and it is kept brief. A brief description is all right; you will expand it for the year ahead as you get to it. In either case, however, the plan can be either detailed or general. This depends on

the personality of the forest owner and on the person who created the management plan. It also depends on the purpose of the plan: if the plan is to serve a Sect. 480-a Real Property Tax Exemption Application, for example, it will have to include a required level of detail as provided in plans prepared by a graduate or otherwise certified forester. If it is for the owner and his

FIGURE 2



Management Plan for a forest with complex land features (An example only!)

Note: Maintain Christmas trees annually.

- Year 1) Start jeep trail in Lots 1 and 2.
- 2) Clear jeep trail to landing, build shelter and picnic area.
- 3) Clear and build foot trail: for view and bird watching.
- 4) TSI for firewood in Lot 2, utilize poles for fence.
- 5) TSI in Lot 3 for aesthetics, build birding blinds.
- 6) Make openings in Lot 4 and plant red oaks and cherry.
- 7) TSI in Lot 5, make firewood.
- 8) Start annual Christmas tree harvest replanting openings each season.
- 9) Cruise with consulting forester and mark as appropriate.
- 10) Timber harvest Lots 2,3,4, & 5 as marked; logs to mill.

successors in ownership, any suitable level can be used. This is all based on common sense. Do not be afraid. This is not a bar exam, it's a management plan for your woods. YOUR woods! If you understand it and will know what you meant 20 years from now, it was a **proper plan**. Whether it is a **good plan**, or a **bad plan** depends on what you do in your forest, which is not the topic of this dissertation, but will be judged at the end of those 20 years by looking at the forest. Here we are looking at the plan: the grocery list, not the meal.

A plan, being an intent, can be changed without necessarily losing its validity. You can add to it, change its emphasis, or even the objectives. Many owners find that the pace of action needs to be adjusted from time to time. If you cannot get the work done in a certain year; it is perfectly all right to postpone it, or to stretch out the timing of things. If your kids take a liking to the forest activity (encourage that!), your plan might speed up! The nice part about a forest crop is that it does not have to be harvested before the winter comes each year.

Management plans may change therefore.

So where is the catch? There has to be one; and this catch happens to be a good one. The catch here is that your forest management plan tends to turn into a commitment. It is a beautiful commitment, because it leads to multiple improvements. A forest management plan improves:

- 1.) your forest and its value,
- 2.) your values as a person who appreciates the forest and the life therein,
- 3.) your peace of mind since you know what to do next in your woods, and
- 4.) the flow of results in your forest which makes you rightly proud.

Its like the grocery list, your meal is better if you start with one.

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

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SYMPOSIUM ON NONINDUSTRIAL PRIVATE FORESTS: LEARNING FROM THE PAST, PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE

By Michael C. Greason

When there are many meetings with concurrent sessions, you may wonder how you are going to fill some of the time slots. I did not experience that at the national symposium that was held just prior to the Seventh American Forestry Congress in Washington, D.C. in February. This meeting was held to prime the pumps of nonindustrial forest owners who would be attending the Congress, to help them think about issues to bring to the tables during the rest of the week. Many excellent speakers discussed the resource and the related issues of the day; herewith follows a brief review.

The first morning started with a keynote address by Neil Sampson, former President of American Forests. Mr. Sampson put forth his guiding principles for government policy which he stated are: 1) maintaining a framework to respect private property rights while expressing private stewardship responsibilities; 2) developing and communicating data, information and skills; 3) creating a balance of economic incentives that reward private investment in stewardship.

Mr. Sampson sees a future of strengthening individual rights while honoring local differences that will feature public/private cooperation.

Tom Birch discussed the national forest owners survey. Nationally 45% of the privately owned forest is in tracts larger than 500 acres. Even in New York, the bulk of the acres are in tracts greater than 100 acres. Some people feel foresters should concentrate their efforts on large properties. *Personally, if society is going to allow forestry to be practiced, I don't believe we can afford to overlook any woodlot that presents an opportunity to manage. If we lack political strength because we only number 500,000 in a state of seventeen million, we cannot ignore any forest owner.*

Joan Commanor, who heads Cooperative Forestry in Washington for the Forest Service, shared her vision for the future which includes: 1) nonindustrial private forests (NIPF) are viewed as sustainable and their owners have a strong commitment to stewardship; 2) public policies will provide incentives and opportunities; 3) there will be adequate numbers of well trained public and private professionals to imple-

ment management; 4) the public at large will value the whole image of forest values; these public values will be accepted and there will be public involvement in private management.

Stan Hamilton, State Forester from Idaho, feels the era of clearcutting and exploitation is behind us and that society supports forestry and private rights. *Perhaps Idaho is a long way from any urban center. I'm not sure New York's population as a whole understands forestry.* He definitely sees the picture from a different perspective than does Larry Biles, Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service, who sees service forestry shifting to regulatory oversight and Extension delivering self-learning technology.

Robert McColly, a private consultant from Pennsylvania, calls for an end to free service. He advocates fair taxes over direct incentives, advocates increased extension education, elimination of inheritance taxes to stop fragmentation, respects private

I was especially pleased to hear SIP (Stewardship Incentives Program) might make a rebound with more funding next year; yet, if you are interested, you probably better let someone know!

property rights and feels consultants are the landowner's only agent, advocate, and fiduciary.

Ken Munson, an industrial forester with International Paper, sees an industry commitment to landowners even through "power down cycles". He discussed the involvement of Tree Farmers in running that program and the benefit of landowner involvement in management. He discussed the American Forest and Paper Association's new Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

The highlight of the morning session, to me, was John Marchant who talked about a national survey he conducted of forest owner associations (see page 8, this

issue). John reinforced my commitment to continue my NYFOA membership. These associations are a growing benefit to forest owners.

The next day and a half were dedicated to concurrent sessions. This was one of the few symposiums I've attended that I really wanted to attend all the sessions. It was difficult deciding what to miss and I'm pleased proceedings will be published. The first afternoon was made up of Education, Regulation/Conservation Easements, and International Forestry. I chose Regulation to gain a better understanding; though I did sneak next door to hear Steve Jones (PA Coop. Ext.) talk about encouragement through demonstration.

What I learned in the Regulation session was that Gifford Pinchot at the turn of the century believed that federal control was needed to assure sustainability. I guess that perception came out of the era of timber baron exploitation. The speakers talked about various approaches that have been taken, cost of government intrusion and the issue of varied, complex local regulation versus statewide uniformity. **There was recognition that growing world population coupled with often conflicting demands on the forest will focus more attention on the NIPF.**

Steve Jones showed that demonstration effected public attitude positively on clearcutting. Properly conducted operations coupled with an outreach effort to educate the public as to what they were looking at influenced public acceptance of significant management activity.

Next I sat in on the Conservation Ease-

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ment session. The speakers reviewed the use of conservation easements, their mechanics and some of the complexities involved. **Who would expect that giving development rights could be construed as increasing property values and contributing to higher real property taxes?** Though that type of problem was not the norm, the benefits and liabilities were discussed openly. Whether you sell or donate rights, take time to investigate all the consequences to avoid future surprises.

Tuesday morning sessions involved Landowner Characteristics, Taxes/Benefits from NIPF Lands, Technical Assistance/Cooperatives and Partnerships. As you might expect this old service forester started off with technical assistance. After hearing Bob McColly wanting to get rid of my kind, my fragile persona was rebuilt hearing of studies that showed **public service forestry programs are an effective tool motivat-**

If society wants benefits from forests, the owners of those forests want cooperation and support from society for those benefits.

ing landowners to manage. I was not surprised by the findings that: cost share was rated as the most important motivator; one-on-one assistance is the second; taxes are third and so forth. I also saw how New York's service forestry program may have better public/private cooperation than some other states. There were discussions about different approaches and balancing programs, similar to our Master Forest Owner Program and other means. I won't say that all the programs I heard about sounded like good ideas to me; but all were thought provoking. I was especially pleased to hear SIP (Stewardship Incentives Program) might make a rebound with more funding next year; yet, if you are interested, you probably better let someone know!

Rick Cantrell, American Forest and Paper Association, discussed the Sustainable Forestry Initiative in greater detail. He portrayed it as a progression towards improving forest stewardship. The initiative recognizes regional differences and complexities. He talked about a member indus-

try pledge and commitment to continuous improvement. He spoke of broadening practice, prompt reforestation following harvest, protection of water resources, but did not mention tree selection or high grading. He did state goals are to increase growth and quality (inferring appropriate silviculture) and a string of seven other goals that passed too quickly for me to jot down.

Steve Broderick, Connecticut Cooperative Extension, presented a social marketing project where they discovered it is easier to sell management to landowners who intend to manage than owners who do not. He did go on to say to target non-intenders to manage, one needs to sell cost/benefits, involve the whole family in the message and capitalize on resource threats and the resulting impact on heirs.

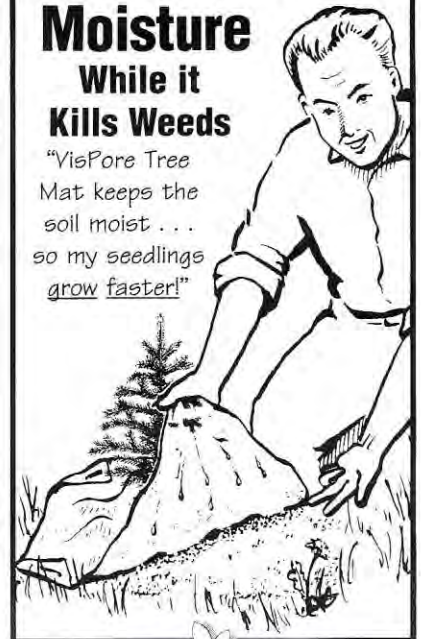
Michael Jacobson, North Carolina State University, discussed a landscape-level management project where an industry landowner involved neighboring landowners in an ecosystem based management project. This appeared to be a good marketing tool for the company to present a holistic management image while establishing wood supply agreements. Prior to the project, two thirds of the neighbors in the study area had never cooperated with each other and those that had, had done so primarily in regards to wildlife habitat practices for improved hunting. In contacting landowners to gain perspectives on commitments to landscape-level management, of those who would commit to landscape/ecosystem management, 36% would demand more than 100% of the market value of their properties and 43% would demand 100% to sign an agreement.

In summary, landowners demonstrate that they respond to professional assistance, incentives and tax breaks. Landowners want freedom from regulation in control of their properties. High real estate, income and inheritance taxes are disincentives to forest management and retention. If society wants benefits from forests, the owners of those forests want cooperation and support from society for those benefits.

I enjoyed participating in this symposium even though the above summation of what I heard makes me realize that the issues seem to stay the same over the decades. *Mike Greason is a Supervising Forester for NYS DEC Division of Lands & Forests in the Central Office in Albany and 1993 winner of NYFOA's Heiberg Award.*

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MORE ON LAND AND ITS ROOTS

By James T. Curtis

One of the many pleasures of owning a parcel of land is investigating the land's history or heritage. This is particularly true in New York State, where your parcel is likely to have undergone significant changes over the past two or three centuries since immigrants arrived. They converted much of the land to a European-style agrarian use from the far different Native American use patterns that had existed previously. For the curious, there are many sources of information regarding a land's historical uses.

The September/October issue of THE NY FOREST OWNER contained an article by Peter Levatich entitled "Does Your Land Have Roots?" That article described how county land transaction records carry an often-fascinating record of the legal ownership history of the lands. These records form an interesting and informative history of the previous stewards of your forest and other lands. Investigating these avenues at the local court house is a wonderful first step in getting to know your predecessors, the people who cared for your lot and had an influence on what type of landscape exists there today.

In addition to this legal record, the landscape itself contains clues to its historical use. By getting out into the woods, and observing closely, one can often perceive a rich history that allows better insights into the forest's "family tree". The knowledge that these clues contain may lead to a greater understanding and awareness that each of us, as the current owners or users of the land, are really just caretakers and stewards for the land. Our actions today will affect how future generations will enjoy the woods, just as surely as our parents' and grandparents' actions affected our present ownership experience.

The landscape is constantly changing but not so quickly that the footprints of earlier activities are hidden from us. At one time, much of New York was cleared for farming. This trend peaked about a century ago when just over 20 per cent of New York was covered with trees. Since that time, a decrease in the acreage under cultivation has been followed by successional changes, with the previously tilled lands reverting to forest. As a result, nearly two-thirds of the state is now covered once again by forests, even though New York is one of

the more densely populated states.

What type of evidence can be seen of yesteryear's influences? To many, the most noticeable remnant of the farms of yesteryear are the stone walls, which are a common site in many of today's woodlots. Typically resulting from rocks that were cleared from fields to allow easier tilling, stone walls mark former meadows and oftentimes, may indicate property borders as well. Surveyors many times use stone walls as a key indicator when researching lot lines where ownership of adjoining parcels is uncertain. Finding an aged stone fence in the middle of a mature forest invariably leads the imagination back to an earlier time, before commuting, faxes, and the Internet. Who built it? How many years' clearing did it take? Was the builder meticulous about his work? If so, the stones are probably still as they were placed. Or perhaps he was just trying to clear the stones, not create art, and the stone wall is today no more than a wide, long pile of rocks.

Hedgerows are similar "tools". Many hedgerows from the 1800s are still hedgerows today, with massive oaks or ash, which have formed homes for chipmunks and squirrels or runways for deer for a century or more. Have you ever encountered a row of mature trees seemingly out of place in a poletimber stand? You may be seeing first hand evidence of forest succession. Perhaps the adjacent forest owes its ancestry to these former hedgerow trees.

How about former residences? Your property may be the site of a former resident's homestead. The most obvious signs are stone foundations, perhaps with a hearth from the "furnace" still intact. Old wells and springhouses may give clues to previous tenants. My land has a 1929 license plate sticking out of a tree, the tree having long ago encompassed the metal by growing around it. I have also found the remnants of a "moonshine" operation from the Prohibition era. Local lore has it that a gentleman named "Honey Joe" produced metheglin, a beverage made of fermented honey and water, on this site. The discovery last year of rusted pails, a foundation, and other material near a spring indicates that the legends may be true. Look also for clues in the vegetation. Are there apple or pear trees, seemingly out of place? Rhubarb or asparagus, even, long-lived perenn-

nials which outlasted the owner who gave them their start? Such crops were staples for many families a century ago, providing food in the absence of Sam's Club, and would indicate a former residence.

What else is available to guide your sleuthing besides property and tax records and a trained eye? Old town road maps are available at many village libraries. The Cooperstown library, for example, near where my land is located, has local maps back into the middle 19th century. These are great sources for the amateur historian as well as the curious forest owner. The map shown with this article, for example, shows not only those roads existing at the time but also the location of each house - with the owner or resident identified by name! This map also shows the plot lines from the original (or at least early) surveys. The deed to my land identifies the eastern

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to think of all of the benefits you could enjoy from having a pond or a lake on your own property. This idea could become a reality if the right conditions prevail. From our experience it normally requires favorable watershed conditions, good site conditions, owner-commitment to stewardship for enhancement of forest land values, appropriate engineering planning and design, and good construction practices.

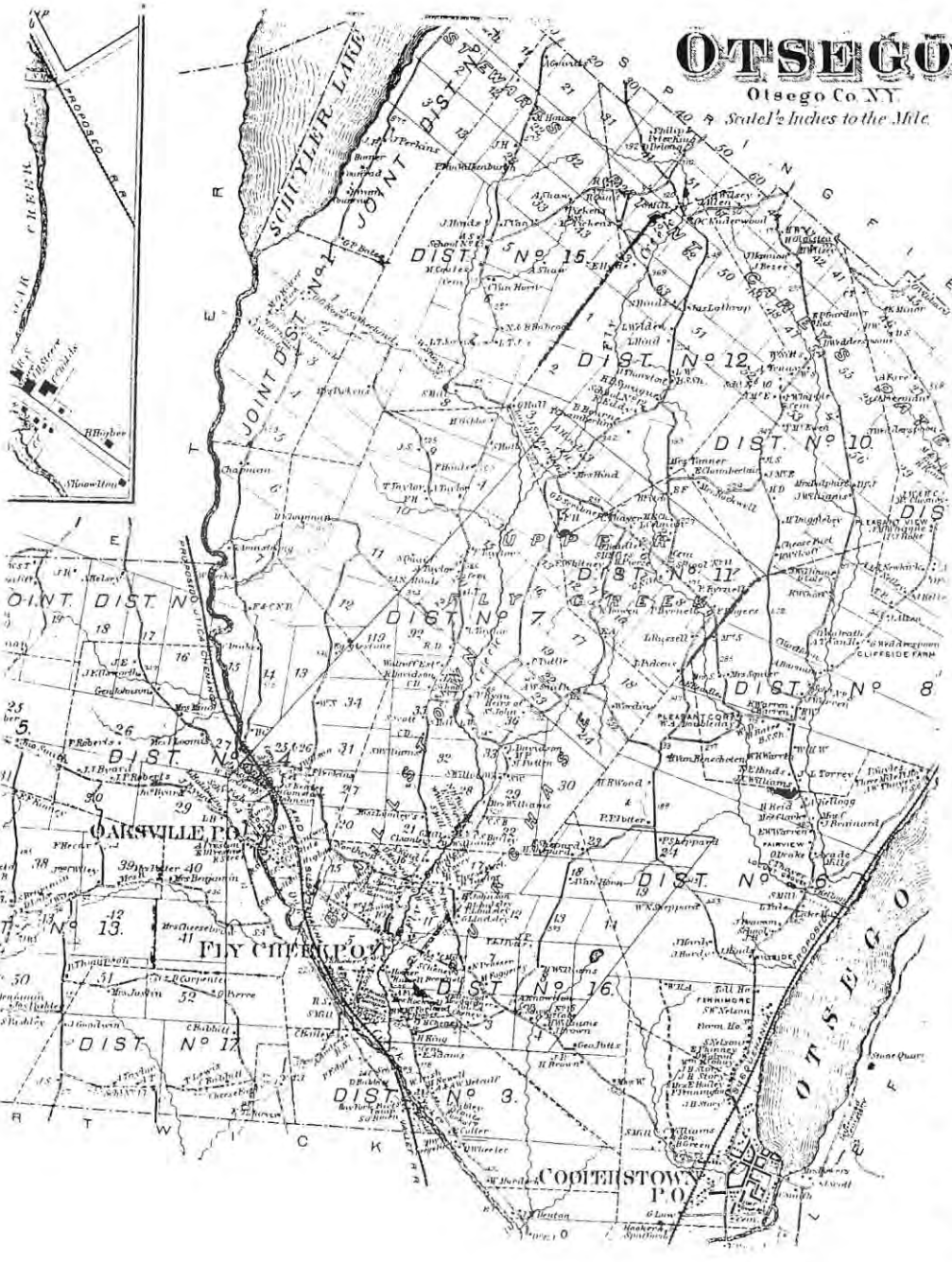
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- * indicate the construction of beaver dams (and the subsequent appearance of a pond)
- * bracket, through a series of aerials, the age of such events
- * identify the general age of your trees, if an old aerial shows a cleared field where trees now grow.
- * Experienced interpreters can even identify subsurface drainage patterns through fracture trace analysis, although this is beyond what most landowners would be capable of (and even beyond the abilities of many geologists!).

Aerial photographs are available from government agencies for a very reasonable price. The photos can be obtained from several sources, but the best way to get historical aerials is through the USDA's Farm Services Agency (FSA), previously known as the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), from their Salt Lake City Aerial Photography Field Office (222 West 2300 South, P.O. Box 30010, Salt Lake City, UT 84119, telephone number (801) 975-3503). This agency is the repository and reproduction center for aerial photography acquired by the ASCS, the Soil Conservation Service, and the US Forest Service. Approximately 95 percent of the United States land area is covered.

The FSA has prints available at various prices, depending on size, Color/B&W, and year of photograph. Prints from the years 1950 - 1980 range from \$3 each for 10" by 10" contact prints to \$27 each for 38" x 38" enlargements, with several additional intermediate sizes. The negative scale is as large as 1:6000, with enlargements available at larger scale. More recent photography (since 1980) has been photographed at a scale of 1:60,000, which makes the photography somewhat less useful. It is also more expensive, ranging from \$6 (10"x10") to \$33 (38"x38") per print. Color infrared prints are available for the years since 1980, however, but at a cost of about double the black and white prices. Stereo coverage may be available, which allows the images to appear in three dimensions. Turnaround time from the FSA is from four to six weeks from the time of the order.

Photography is available from the FSA

Town map of area west of Cooperstown from 1868. Note that residences are identified by owner; and original survey lines are shown along with the roads and other features. Some of the roads shown are no longer publicly travelled but may still be visible on the land.

boundary as "the Highway". This road, which is clearly shown on the 1868 and 1903 Cooperstown village maps, has not been publicly - travelled for many years. The road is identifiable in the woods in many places, however, having its location shown on the former town maps has made it easier to identify.

These maps may also help in deciphering very old deeds, which may refer to a location only in reference to adjoining owners (e.g., "All that parcel of land situate in the Town of Middlefield, known as the Pope Farm, on which Seth Pope resided

at the time of his death, bounded on the north by lands of one Gates; on the east by lands of Webb; on the south by lands of Vickers; and on the west by lands of the McDaniel Brothers"). Such descriptions were probably crystal clear in the time when they were drafted, but may be near meaningless today without help from documents such as the town maps which existed at the time.

Perhaps the best tools for getting an idea of the former appearance of your property are aerial photos. These gems may contain numerous types of interesting information



Example of an aerial photo from 1960 of an area including Morris, Otsego County. Much of the area that was cleared farm land in 1960 is today young forest land. Roads, edges of fields, mature forests, water bodies, hedgerows, and other key features, are easily identifiable from such photographs at low cost from the Farm Services Agency. Scale is 1"=1320.

from the present back to about 1950. Depending on the county of interest, prints are likely to be available at about 10 year intervals. Older photography (1930s through 1950) may also be available from the National Archives, Cartographic & Architectural Branch, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740, telephone (301) 713-7040. These photos are handled by independent contractors and are generally more

expensive but turnaround time is reportedly better.

An excellent guide to aerial photographs and their use in forest management is found in an article by Arlyn Perkey in the latest (September 1995) issue of *Forest Management Update*. This irregularly - published periodical is an excellent source of forestry news, tidbits, and research that comes from the staff at the Northeast Area office of the

USDA Forest Service in Morgantown, West Virginia. Through an arrangement with NYFOA, this publication is now available to all interested readers for a \$2 postage fee from the NYFOA office (716-377-6060 or 1-800-836-3566).

James T. Curtis, a Master Forest Owner who lives in Andover, Mass., frequently visits his woodlots in Cooperstown, Otsego County.

NEW LEGISLATION

BY DAVID J. COLLIGAN

The New York State Legislature is currently in its busiest season. In addition to wrestling with the annual budget, the legislature is considering several bills that relate to forest owners.

The primary bill of interest is The Right to Practice Forestry Bill (A5340; S4993). Presently, forty towns in New York State have passed harvesting ordinances. Another forty towns have passed site clearance ordinances which may affect logging practices. Therefore, approximately eighty towns out of the 900+ towns in New York State have already passed ordinances which will potentially restrict the landowners ability to sell wood products from the land they pay taxes on. This new act would greatly restrict local government or municipal regulations over harvesting practices, and it would also make it difficult for a private individual or group to interfere with the landowners' rights to practice forestry on their own land.

We urge every member of NYFOA to write to their State Assemblyman, State Senator, and the Governor in support of this Right to Practice Forestry Act. It is essential that your legislator be immediately advised of your strong feelings on this new law. Anyone wishing to receive a proposed letter to send in favor of this law can call NYFOA's toll free number 1-800-836-3566 to receive a form letter for their signature. Anyone not knowing their State Legislators can also use NYFOA's toll free number for that information.

WRITE TODAY TO YOUR STATE LEGISLATOR!! This is an important leg-

islative piece which will protect all of our investment in good forestry.

The Empire State Forest Products Association is planning an Albany Legislative Lobbying session on May 7, 1996 at which time individuals will be meeting directly with the State Legislators regarding legislative initiatives including the Right to Practice Forestry Law. Anyone wishing to attend the ESFPA Albany Legislative session can call Kevin King at 518/463-1297 for a legislative issues pamphlet which will prepare you for the issues and advise you where to meet for the Albany Lobbying Session.

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



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MAY 15: WFL; 7:30PM; Gen. Mtg.; Access Roads & Trails; Cummings Nature Ctr; 716/367-2849 eve.

MAY 18; WFL; 10AM; Follow-up Woodwalk; Canadice, 716/367-2849 eve.

MAY 18: NFC; 10AM; GPS Demonstration by Max Bennett at Bob Preston's, (716) 632-5862.

JUN 8: CNY; 10AM; **FAMILY FOREST FAIR;** Gurnee Woods; (315) 689-3314.

JUN 29: NFC; American Chestnut Foundation; Chestnut Ridge Park.

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