

The New York
FOREST OWNER

A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association

July/August 1996



**THE NEW YORK
FOREST OWNERS
ASSOCIATION**

**VOL. 34, NO. 4
OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

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

Jill Cornell, Vice President
703 Johnsonville Rd.
Johnsonville, NY 12094; 518/ 753-4336

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

Mary Richardson, Treasurer
150 Chatfield Road
Elbridge, NY 13060; 315/ 689-6890

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

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

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

1999
Harry Dieter, Honeoye Falls; 716/533-2085
Thomas Ellison, Manlius; 315/682-9376
Richard Fox, Moravia; 315/497-1078
David Swanson, Mount Morris; 716/658-4601

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

CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES
Don Huber, Allegheny Foothills; 716/ 549-5025
Tom Hewitt, Cayuga; 315/ 497-1266
Barry Cornell, Capital District; 518/ 753-4336
Tom Graber, Central New York; 315/ 255-3662
Jeff Wiegert, Lower Hudson; 914/ 831-3109
Bob Howard, Northern Adirondack West; 315/262-2692
Herb Boyce, Northern Adirondack East; 518/ 946-7040
Donald Fraser, Niagara Frontier; 716/ 773-7011
Ernst Spencer, SE Adirondack; 518/ 792-1726
Larry Lepak, Southern Tier; 607/ 656-8504
Don Schaufler, Tioga; 607/ 589-6095
Eileen VanWie, Western Finger Lakes; 716/ 367-2849

All rights reserved. Contents may not be reproduced without prior written permission from the publisher. NYFOA does not necessarily support or approve procedures, products, or opinions presented by authors or advertisers.

COVER:

A Forestry Class tours a stand of Red Pine in Allegany State Park; Photo by Norman Richards, Professor, SUNY/ESF

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 Sep/Oct is Aug 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.



A nice one from Dale Schaefer's woodlot, Western Fingerlakes Chapter.

Table of Contents

President's Message, Bill Miner 3
Risky Branching, Peter Levatic 4
Shady Reflections, Michael Greason 7
Some Do's and Don'ts, Verner Hudson 9
The Galapagos Islands, Henry Kernan 10
Chapters/Affiliates 12
LETTERS 13
Awards 14
Death and Taxes, David Colligan 17
NYS Forest Practice Act of 1946 18
Japanese Knotweed, John Braubitz 19
Bruce Spanworm, Douglas Allen 21
Afraid of the Woods?, Jane S. Lord 22

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Miner

A late spring weekend was my first chance to spend some time in the woods; earlier there had been some blow-down in our wetland. Of the trees that we could reach, we were able to salvage two hemlocks and a decent hard maple. Getting to these trees was a real struggle with the high water level of these "low lands". The first hemlock was simply up-rooted, lying flat on the ground. Some quick limb trimming and three sawlog cuts produced two 12 foot logs. The second hemlock and a maple came down together producing a root flap that stood about 12 feet tall. The maple was about 4 feet off the ground at the stump, while the hemlock stood at over six feet. Not having a lot of experience in removing trees in this condition, I stopped to ponder the best approach to what could be a very dangerous situation. Let's see...if I cut the larger hemlock, I would have the maple to counter balance the sudden loss of leverage and weight the hemlock represented. At worse case, after cutting the hemlock, the maple would rise slowly on the root hinge which would give me time to get out of harm's way. To test the plan I first trimmed the branches from the hemlock and topped it. No movement from the root hinge. I then cut a 12 foot section from the top of the tree. No movement. Now I was left with the last 16 foot section of the tree, the stump of which was 6 to 7 feet in the air.

There was no possible way that I could cut the log from the ground. Even if I could, I had no idea which way the log would fall or roll once it hit the ground. Moment of truth, do I really believe in physics?—the answer was yes! I scrambled to a vantage point up the root system and cut the remaining log. No movement. I went to the adjoining maple and started to slowly cut at the stump. I stopped the chain saw when I heard the first crack in the wood. Stepping back, I turned off the saw and listened. Another crack followed by a moment of silence, then another and another; and my feet started moving without a message from my brain. Within five yards from the maple, I heard a snap that sounded like a rifle shot followed in rapid succession by a clap of thunder, as the root flap returned to its original position in the swamp. All that kinetic energy released in a split second!

TAKE CARE!

The Annual NYFOA Spring meeting at the Forestry College this past April 27, 1996 was a great success. A special thanks to **Norm Richards** who coordinates this function with the college and **Debbie Gill** who organizes and runs registration. Also a special thanks to **Dick Fox** and **Jill Cornell** for securing outstanding speakers.

At the afternoon luncheon **Bob Sand** presented **Betty Densmore** with the "Outstanding Service Award" for her dedicated commitment to NYFOA and her community. Our sincere congratulations to Betty! The 1996 Heiberg Award was presented to **Jack** (and **Harriet Hamilton**, posthumously) for their dedication to forestry and years of service to the Tree Farm Program.

At the Annual Meeting, I inaugurated the first President's Awards in recognition of Chapter Members who have made special efforts to improve their chapters or dedicated their time in support of the general NYFOA membership. The first President's Award went to **Betty Wagner** who's idea of a "NYFOA Quilt Raffle" was

a resounding success. Awards were also made to **Ron Pederson** for his "Timber Theft Program," and **Eileen Van Wie** and **Dale Schaefer** for their work in hosting the very successful 1995 Fall Meeting.

Our next event will be the Chapter Leadership retreat in September to be held at the Holiday Inn in Cortland. **Charlie Mowatt** and **Betty Densmore** have been hard at work in preparing this special meeting for the benefit of chapter chairs and chapter newsletter editors. This is a special time for chapter leaders to come together and share experiences, problems, and ideas with their colleagues; you will find this to be a worthwhile and enjoyable experience. I look forward to seeing you in Cortland.

September 28 & 29, 1996 is the date for the Fall Meeting that will be hosted by the Catskill Forest Association in the beautiful fall colors of the Catskill Mountains. This will be a Fall Meeting you won't want to miss. Registration information for this program will be published in the next issue of THE FOREST OWNER.

Sitting Around

I watched them walk across the tarmac from the commuter plane,
quickstep all the way.

She and he in power suits, computer cases strung over their shoulders,
wheeled suitcases in tow.

As they marched by me, she said,
"Nothing gets done if you just sit around,"
...as I just sat around.

Mom sat around reading the newspaper to learn English—nothing.

I sit and watch Chelsea curled up by the woodstove, tail wrapped around her nose,
her eye occasionally looking my way to be sure I am still with her—nothing.

A volunteer sits and holds the hand of an elderly citizen—nothing.

I remember Laurie and Eric sitting quietly, enjoying a good thumb—nothing.

I sit under a tree, feeling the warmth of the sun on my face,
listening to the wind play the strings and tympani of branches and leaves,
feeling the wet soil in my toes, smelling the blooms of new life—nothing.

A mother sits quietly with her nursing child—nothing.

The Earth sits quietly, with no human to use or value it—nothing.

Nothing is worthwhile

if you can't just sit around to do the nothing that is everything.

Nothing.

—James E. Coufal ©

RISKY BRANCHING

By Peter S. Levatich © 1996

I remember our walnut trees had horizontal branches where I grew up near the western end of the Carpathian Mountains. We used to walk out on such a branch to get to the nuts, while holding on to the next higher branch at just the right distance for a twelve year old. But as always, when you go out on a limb, there comes a moment when that inner voice says... "Hey, you are not a Ruffed Grouse!"... Those horizontal branches never broke, but they did bend to your weight.

In my central New York forest the best trees are white ash. Their branching tendencies are different from the Carpathian Walnut trees. I lament their propensity to fork frequently as if they had a hard time designating a strong leader. Some forking occurs at low elevations and so some trees develop into what is commonly called a risk tree. Other tree species do this to a lesser extent and they, too, become risk trees. And so what, you may say; they look picturesque when they develop a broad, spreading crown with lots of seed capacity as they grow old! Sure, but forked trees are at risk.

Horizontally projecting branches, like the ones on the Carpathian Walnuts and on most of our indigenous species too, are structurally the strongest. Dr. Alex Shigo has analyzed branching* and how the fiber growth of the tree trunk and the fiber growth of the branch interact to develop a strong joint. As shown on Sketch 1., fiber layers, being very strong in one direction, alternate forming a mat not unlike plywood. Plywood is very hard to split because the direction of alternate fiber plies are perpendicular to each other. So it is with one layer of branch fiber covered with one layer of trunk fiber, year after year. These layers wrap around the branch-trunk connection. While horizontal branch connections have fiber layers near perpendicular to one another, the strength of this layering decreases as the crotch angle of the branch decreases until, in a fork, both become minimal. See Sketch 2.

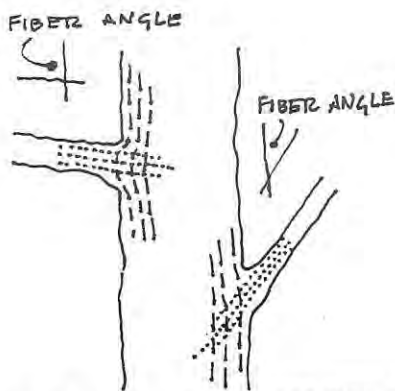
In time, as both arms of a tree fork thicken due to annual diameter growth, the fork closes and the surfaces begin to touch. These touching surfaces do not bond, however; they do not attach or grow into one. A loose joint develops in a vertical plane



*Photo above:
Center tree is a
risk tree with
major fork which
needs to be
inspected closely.
To its left and
behind it, is a full
height young tree
free of forking.
Both are white ash.*



*Photo below: A
finished risk tree.
Note un-bonded
joint face at the
top of the split
area with fault
line protrusion.*



NOTE: NOT ALL FIBERS ARE SHOWN

SKETCH - 1

. PSL '96.

between the fork arms, see Sketch 3. This joint opens and closes as the wind and the snow load move the fork arms. It is only a matter of time before the joint fails and turns into a split below, deep down the trunk. Sometimes a fork arm will break off taking part of the lower trunk with it. This is when the risk turns into a loss.

The only risk of the Carpathian Walnut branching in those glorious care free days was that once in a while a kid fell off a bending branch. It would have been worse if the branch had broken; but horizontal branch connections do not tend to break. The farther out the branch, the more the bending, giving ample warning. So there is less risk, certainly to the tree. And losses in my youth occurred only to the young ego.

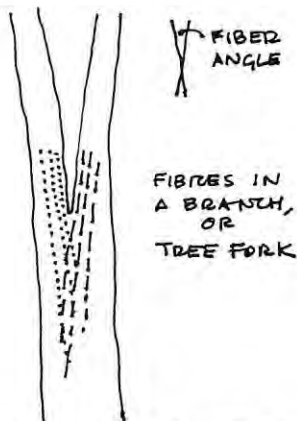
Observation of the whole forest makes it easy to identify the risk trees. Looking at the forest in general will indicate how tall trees will grow in your location. (That depends on the quality of the site). All trees approaching the level of maximum prevailing height (site index height) will form crowns, definite terminal branching pat-

terns. Almost all branching up there will be forks and small angle branching. This is normal and good. The risk trees are those that have forks in the trunk below this level. The lower the fork, the riskier. Judgment must be used as always but identification is not difficult. Looking closely at a fork is important, too. In high risk forks the pressure of growth results in vertical protrusions along the fault line—the un-bonded joint of the fork arms. In forks where the upper arms come off with a curve forming a saddle are at low risk because the arms will probably never grow together to touch each other.

Unfortunately, little can be done for risk trees. Knowing about them, on the other hand, is important. It is suspected that branching characteristics are, to a considerable extent, genetically transmitted. Therefore, if you, as an example, have a lot of white ash forks occurring low in the trunk, cutting them out of your forest should improve the genetics of the stock. During thinning operations, risk trees can be taken out as less valuable specimens, making room for more valuable ones. During a timber harvest, take as many as can be sold.

In those walnut trees not all branches bent beyond our expectations. In your forest not all risk trees will break or split. Some kids came off with pockets full of walnuts and some of your risk trees will go to the sawmill undamaged, or produce seeds for wildlife until they succumb to old age. Risk is not certainty, it never was, or we would be living in a different world.

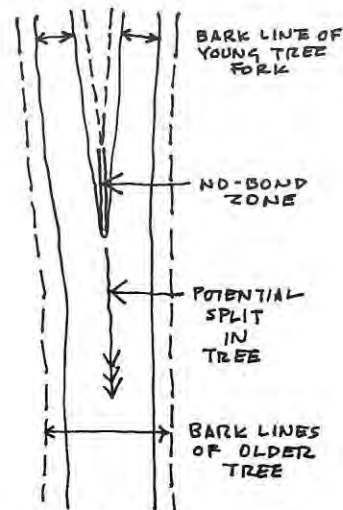
*A NEW TREE BIOLOGY, by Alex L. Shigo; Shigo and Trees, Associates; 4 Denbow Road, Durham, NH 03824. ▲



NOTE: NOT ALL FIBERS ARE SHOWN

SKETCH - 2

. PSL '96.



SKETCH - 3

. PSL '96.

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 Photos by author.

Lake George Forestry

Complete Forestry Services including:

- Detailed Management Plans
- Timber Trespass
- Timber Sales
- Appraisals
- Deed Research
- Timber Inventory
- Watershed Management
- Boundary Line Location
- Tax Savings Plans

No property is too small or too large to benefit from experienced professional assistance when you are faced with important decisions regarding its use.

Contact Lake George Forestry today to arrange a free initial consultation.

Christian Gearwear, President
LAKE GEORGE FORESTRY, INC.

50 Hendrick Street
Lake George, New York 12845
Tel: 518-668-2623
1-800-773-4611
Fax: 518-668-2486

30+ Years Experience

ROBERT DEMEREE

Professional Forestry Consultant

Timber Sales • Management Planning
Tax Law • Tree Planting

3987 Northway Drive
Cortland, NY 13045-9317

Telephone:
(607) 753-0497



CONNECT TO FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND BUSINESS PARTNERS ONLINE.
 JOIN THE GROWING COMMUNITY OF NYFORESTONLINE USERS.
 FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A FREE INTERNET CONNECTION KIT,
 CONTACT RESOURCE STRATEGIES, INC. AT 315-451-3945

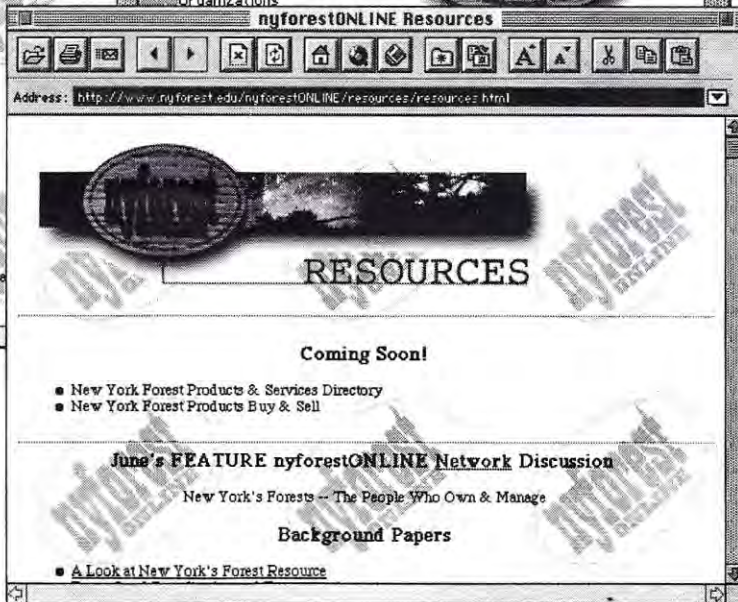
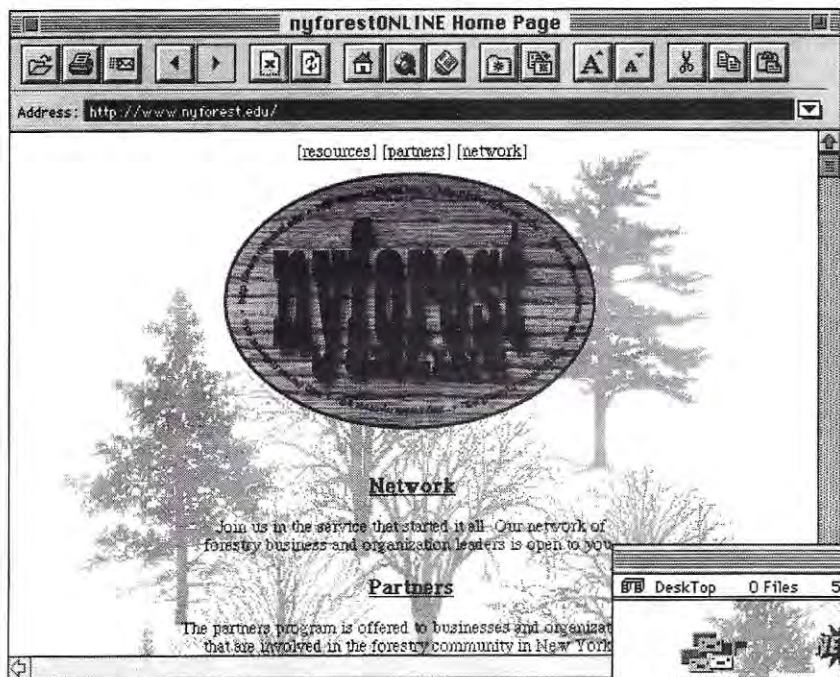
**FREE BUSINESS WEB PAGE DESIGN : HOSTING
 FREE TIMBER SALES LISTING SERVICE**

YOU'RE INVITED...

VISIT US ON THE WEB...
[HTTP://WWW.NYFOREST.EDU/](http://www.nyforest.edu/)
 THEN JOIN OUR
 FOREST COMMUNITY DISCUSSION
 GROUPS.

LEARN HOW ONLINE...
 DIRECT DIALUP 315-470-6980
 OR ON THE WEB AT:
[HTTP://WWW.NYFOREST.EDU/](http://www.nyforest.edu/)
 OR CALL 315-451-3945.

FREE INTERNET CONNECTION KIT!
 WHILE SUPPLIES LAST



**JOIN OTHER FOREST
 OWNERS ONLINE TODAY!**

[HTTP://WWW.NYFOREST.EDU/](http://www.nyforest.edu/)

NYFORESTONLINE IS A SERVICE OF
 THE NEW YORK STATE CENTER FOR FORESTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

SHADY REFLECTIONS

(or Stopping by Woods in the Summer Heat)

By Michael C. Greason

Travelling many roads and streets throughout New York, one finds rows of large trees, probably most often sugar maples, along the highway shoulder that appear to be about one hundred years old. Often they are around three feet in diameter and showing a variety of signs of decline. Have you ever wondered how they got there or why they are all about the same age?

William F. Fox, in the 1901 Forest, Fish and Game Commission Seventh Report, wrote, "Tree planting is one of the best expressions of altruism. The man who plants trees is thinking of others rather than himself. He enables people to gratify their love of the beautiful, to enjoy better health, to become more prosperous; he makes the world better and happier." This was the introductory to a forty-seven page discussion of the benefits of planting roadside trees. The report covered species attributes and management concerns going into specific details of planting and care. Reference was made to the Highway Law of 1869 which offered tax abatement to landowners planting shade trees along highways. A highway tax abatement of \$1.00 for every four trees set out with guidelines for spacing encouraged landowners to plant.

There was controversy at that time regarding roadside planting. Opponents claimed tree shade was responsible for muddy roads. Proponents came back with charges that poor road construction, not shade, was responsible for the mud. This dialog reminded me of the incident when a local politician's daughter had an accident on a county highway beside a state spruce plantation. The affair created political pressure to clearcut a strip to allow more sun to reach the road surface earlier in the day. The fact the girl was hurt led to charges that the trees were responsible. The facts that the county road crew hadn't sanded, that the girl was driving too fast for conditions, that the plantation provided benefits and was back of the highway right of way, did not prevent accusatory fingers being pointed at trees. And we must recognize that roadside trees today are a greater risk to modern, fast moving cars than they were to horse and buggy traffic. In this case the roadside trees were behind a deep drain-

age ditch, thirty feet from the shoulder and their shade was the only issue. Reason eventually prevailed and the plantation was not cut. The plantation is still providing wood products, hare and grouse habitat, air and water filtration, and beauty.

The 1869 Highway Law shows an early recognition of the benefits trees provide and the essence of a public forestry urban/rural interface program. It seems that all that changes are the buzz words; issues and means of addressing them are cyclic. Urban forestry wasn't really invented in 1978; rather it was more of a reinvention/evolution process that piqued public interest. Society has long known that trees are an essential component of our habitat and that we depend on trees for many tangible and intangible benefits.

Fox's report referred to an 1899 New York Medical Society resolution which expressed, "one of the most effective means for mitigating the intense heat of the summer months, and diminishing the death rate among children, is the cultivation of an adequate number of trees in the streets". Fox

described many details of tree planting and care for roadside trees. Science has evolved and undoubtedly will continue to do so; but Fox's report shows a high degree of knowledge in the very early era of what is called the birth of American forestry. This report shows an awareness of all the same values we attribute to trees today.

If we were to study other countries' histories, we would come upon similar reports spanning several centuries. With that in mind, why do we continue to lack a societal understanding and commitment to natural resource management? I would think a forest land stewardship ethic and real public support for assuring management would be a foundation of our culture. Exploitation, fragmentation or parcelization, confiscatory taxation and like concerns should be unknown to us. ▲

Mike Greason is a Supervising Forester for NYS DEC Division of Lands & Forest in the Central Office in Albany and 1993 winner of NYFOA's Heiberg Award.

Fountain Forestry



Quality Management of Land and Timber

- Forest Management
- Timber Sales
- Forest Investment Consulting
- Timber Appraisal and Valuation
- Forest Taxation
- Forest Practices and Wetland Laws
- Land Use Planning
- Conservation Easements
- Land Sales and Brokerage
- Mapping and Remote Sensing
- Wildlife and Recreation
- Accounting Services

FOUNTAIN FORESTRY, INC.
21 Cliff Avenue, P.O. Box 1002
Tupper Lake, NY 12986

Tel/Fax: (518) 359-3089

Bruce E. Robinson, Inc. FORESTRY CONSULTANTS



- FOREST PRODUCT MARKING & MARKETING
- TREE FARM MANAGEMENT
 - URBAN FORESTRY & COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT
 - TIMBER APPRAISALS
- ACCESS ROAD DESIGN & SUPERVISION
- TREE PLANTING
- TREE SHELTER DISTRIBUTOR
- SUGAR BUSH MANAGEMENT
- BOUNDARY MAINTENANCE
- CHRISTMAS TREE MANAGEMENT
- FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING
- FOREST RECREATION PLANNING
- WOODLOT IMPROVEMENTS IN IMMATURE STANDS
- WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
- FOREST TAXATION PLANNING

(716) 665-5477

1894 CAMP ST. EXT.
JAMESTOWN, NY 14701

Wanted! Forest Owners to Help Neighbors!

By Gary Goff

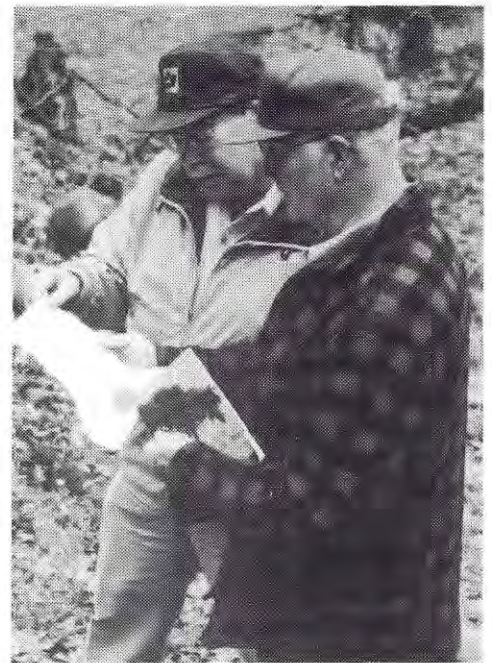
New York's Master Forest Owner/COVERTS Program is now in its 6th year. Much has been accomplished, but much is still to be done! There are now 130 Master Forest Owner (MFO) volunteers (including 15 couples) from 41 counties. Simply stated, MFOs are responsible for providing private, non-industrial forest owners of NY State with the information and encouragement necessary to manage their forest holdings wisely. This is typically done via a 1/2-day visit to cooperating neighbors' woodlots. MFOs also become involved in time with a variety of educational opportunities to promote wise forest stewardship such as working with their County Cooperative Extension Agents and NYS DEC Foresters.

This year's training for MFO candidates will be held Thurs. evening through Sun. noon, Sept. 19-21 at Cornell's Arnot Training and Research Forest, just South of Ithaca. The training workshop is a combination classroom and outdoor field exercises on a wide variety of subjects includ-

ing tree identification, finding boundaries, forest ecology, wildlife management, communication techniques, and even a visit to Coastal Lumber Co. sawmill. Instructors include NY state and consultant foresters, experienced MFO volunteers, Cornell Cooperative Extension Educators, and Cornell University faculty. Most workshop expenses are paid by the program.

NY's MFO/COVERTS program is jointly funded by the NY Forest Stewardship Program and the Ruffed Grouse Society with cooperation from Cornell Cooperative Extension, NYS DEC Division of Lands and Forests, and the New York Forest Owners Association.

Individuals or couples interested in applying to become MFO volunteers must contact the Program Director, Gary Goff, by July 15. An application form will then be mailed to candidates. Notification of selection to program will be made August 12th. To apply, or for more information, please write to MFO/COVERTS Program, Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853 or call 607/255-2824. ▲



While on a site visit MFO Art Harris (l) looks over an old management plan with forest owner Don Osborn.

Photo by author

FARM CREDIT



Loan or lease? It depends...

Some say obtaining a loan and **buying** is the most cost-effective way to finance expensive equipment.

Others say **leasing** equipment is the way to go.

In fact, each financing option has certain advantages with regard to convenience, flexibility and tax obligation.

To find out which makes most sense for you, talk to an ag business expert at Farm Credit.

When you do, remember this: Eligible borrowers can **buy or lease through Farm Credit** — a choice you won't find at many other institutions.

Farm Credit gives you the choice.

First Pioneer Farm Credit, ACA
394 Route 29,
Greenwich, NY 12834
(800) 234-0269



INTRODUCING

MycorTree[™] MYCORRHIZAL ROOT DIP

25 years of USDA research proves that
mycorrhizae improves:

Stem and root growth
Survival rate
Disease resistance
Drought tolerance

*Formulas for 99% of
all trees and shrubs.*

Call today for information on *MycorTree*[™] and
TREE PRO Tree Protectors.

800-875-8071

TREE PRO

3180 W 250 N
W. Lafayette, IN 47906

SOME DO'S AND DON'TS—AS I SEE IT

By Verner Hudson

A farm that my wife, Marjorie, and I purchased in 1951 from her father contained 320 acres. One woodlot of 80 acres had been misused and managed at random. Another parcel of 110 acres was basically second-growth with no management. Experience in the management of these acres prompts the following "do's" and "don'ts"

Active interest in your property, whether developed early or late in your ownership tenure, is the key to achieving ownership objectives! That woodlot in the back forty may not be too attractive, but it holds more value than you may think. If you treat it right, it will treat you right. Some important concerns are:

- Know your boundaries, be a good neighbor and have an agreement, even if you have it surveyed.
- Become acquainted with the dominant tree species, their age, and size.
- Contact a forester; forestry school graduates have both the schooling and experience in forest management. Do not let a logger convince you that he "knows more about managing a woodlot than any forester there ever was". Talk with the forester and keep in mind how to improve your bank account, improve wildlife habitat, and improve the timber quality.

You may suggest that he make several sample plots in the woodlot. This entails counting the trees and sizes of trees in a certain area. If the population of over 16 inch DBH trees is excessive, he may recommend that some of this diameter class be harvested. This is especially important in managing an uneven-age stand. This is also called a prescription, and in marking the trees for harvest, the forester must keep the prescription in mind. An old adage: Of a few, take a few, leave a few.

When marking the woodlot for harvest insist that the forester mark for removal the diseased trees, crooked trees, low crotched trees, and other trees of low value. A nice time to mark the trees is early spring before the leaves are on so that the entire trunk of the tree can be seen. After tallying the number of species and sizes of trees for sale, the forester can send out bid forms stating the location of the property, the number of estimated board feet of each species, and invite interested buyers to inspect the woodlot. Interested buyers will submit a bid to the forester, then you may or may not decide to sell. If you decide to sell, a contract and a deposit should be expected of

the successful bidder. A few pointers on a good contract:

- Give the buyer enough lead time, usually not over two years.
- Insist that the logs be pulled to the skid roads with a cable.
- Insist that the logger use the marked skid roads.
- Be aware of any taxes that may be due.
- Be aware of any insurance coverage required by everyone.

Arrangements for payment with a promissory note can be made with a respectable buyer to reduce the income tax by taking payments over a period of time.

BEWARE of a fast talking logger running the roads looking for a woodlot to cut. He usually makes an offer substantially less than when sold on a competitive bid. His story may sound good but mistakes in this business are crucial with short term money losses and often even greater long term financial loss.

After the harvest reap the rewards:

- You have helped the environment; after 3-5 years the woodlot should look very vibrant with green undergrowth and some desirable saplings beginning to show.
- You can look forward to another harvest in 15-20 years.
- You have improved the wildlife habitat by creating more food and cover.
- You may cut your own firewood; do not let a firewood harvester in the woodlot without your presence. He can do more harm than occurred in the actual harvest.
- You now have an improved place for hunting, x-country skiing, hiking, bird watching, or sitting on a stump and watching the trees grow.
- You also have a managed woodlot of which you may be pleased to show others.
- You may be recognized as a "Tree Farmer" with a roadside sign.

Be familiar with tree diseases and insects and with the high value species. Become familiar with the DEC service forester in your county. He/She is there to help and can provide a list of consulting foresters, recommended loggers, and interested buyers. Educate your local politicians, county, and state legislators. The legislators need to know about the costs involved in growing a crop of trees for a period of years and the burden of property taxes.

Taxes, soil conditions, markets, and your ability to manage the forest determine the



profit of a woodlot. An example of this reminds me of when I was a dairyman; if a cow was not producing enough, she went out the door. An acre of woodlot may not be moved, but you can surely improve it to grow the highest quality of timber possible.

Verner is a past director of the New York Forest Owners Association, and a Master Forest Owner, and serves as Treasurer of the New York State Forest Practice Board.

Seedlings Grow Faster in Supertube™

"A seedling in Supertube grows twice as fast . . . or more!"



TREESSENTIALS
COMPANY

Box 7097 • Dept 15 • St Paul, MN 55107

FREE Booklet—Toll Free

1-800-248-8239

©1995 Treessentials Company

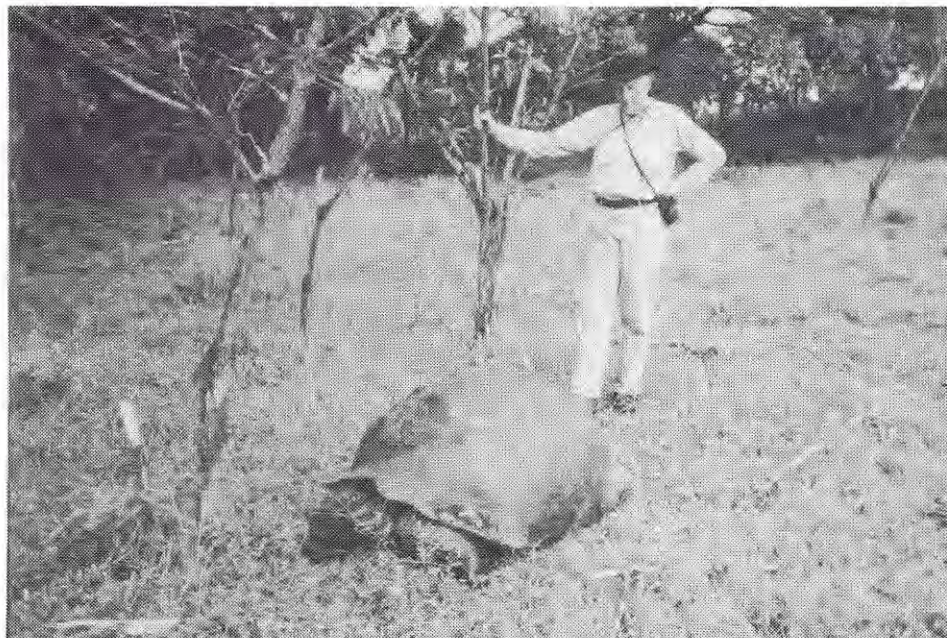
THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

—and cultural evolution

By Henry S. Kernan

The Galapagos Islands are a well known and popular destination for pleasurable travel. Last year nearly 50,000 holiday seekers chose them and paid well for the privilege. The islands were not always sought for such a purpose. These volcanic peaks that rose from the ocean floor five million years ago, are, in their natural state, nearly as uninviting to human presence as are the Gobi Desert and the Arctic Circle. Spanish clerics discovered them by chance and unwillingly in 1555. What they saw and experienced, while searching for water, repelled them and earned the name, "*Las Encantadas*", the haunted and bewitched. The islands were uninhabited and remained so for the next three centuries. In 1795 the English captain, Vancouver, pronounced them to be dreary, barren, and desolate. Charles Darwin had the same opinion forty years later. The Ecuadorians, who laid claim to them in 1832, had in mind penal colonies. They could not have anticipated the present biosphere of such extraordinary interest to science nor a magnet for tourists nor a multi-million dollar earner of foreign exchange.

Important factors in the change are the skillful publicity in the promotional program and the modern equipment for giving visitors a sense of the exotic and adventurous without danger and discomfort. They can now watch pelicans and sea lions from the deck of a yacht and find the coasts more inviting than they were to the earlier commentators. They can marvel at the abundance of bird and animal life against a background of mangroves, white sandy beaches, and rugged cliffs of gray lava rock, surf-shaped and pounded for millions of years.



Henry and Friend.

Four centuries after their discovery, the Archipelago de Colon (the official name) had almost no permanent residents. Casual visitors were pirates and whaling ships looking for water and the large tortoises from which the islands receive their popular name.

Those early visitors left a nearly extinct population of Galapagos tortoises. Their legacy is the catastrophic presence of feral animals - donkeys, goats, pigs, dogs, cats, and rats. The indigenous forms of life evolved in isolation over millennia. Defenses against such predators are often inadequate to ensure survival. For example, feral dogs and pigs feed upon newly hatched tortoises and iguanas. The Charles Darwin Research Foundation now cares for the eggs and young until large enough for release.

During more than a century after becoming part of Ecuador, these islands must really have seemed bewitched with an inexplicable attraction for odd human types and behavior. Agricultural and penal colonies disintegrated into violence, bloodshed, confusion, and failure. History tells of a mad Irishman who claimed kingship with a dozen or so captive followers. The penal and indentured labor, desperate from overwork, hardship, and cruelty, rose up and murdered overseers, including one Cobos, a native of New Orleans. A demented German dentist chose to break ties with society, lived as a hermit, and died of poisoned chicken. An Austrian countess, or pseudo-countess, arrived to proclaim herself empress and later disappeared with several admirers and without a trace.

From 1884 to 1929 groups of Norwegians were unsuccessful in efforts to establish settlements. By World War II, when a U.S. Air Force Base arrived 400 years after discovery, the resident population on a land area of 3026 square miles was barely 2500.

Tragedies and absurdities persisted. Penal colonies came and went with more violence and bloodshed. A military training exercise was a disaster. Two companies of elite troops landed for a crossing of Santa Isabella Island. Five days later they arrived in the last stages of utter exhaustion, near delirium and death from twelve miles of

CONSULTING FORESTER • NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

VINCENT P. CHEBETAR, JR. ACF

Assisting Woodland Owners Since 1967

996 Arnett Blvd.
Rochester, NY 14619
(716) 235-7341

NYS Cooperating Consultant
Member: NYICF, ACF, SAF

crawling over hot lava boulders and of hacking through the dense, tangled vegetation of spines and thorns.

Another tragicomedy played out in 1960. After they paid \$2500 each, 176 would-be colonists left Seattle for the Galapagos to found what was to be a commune of philosophical scientists supported by the export of lobster from an island paradise. Instead of lobster they found hostility and recriminations; no food, no lodging, no way to make a living, and (worst of all) no ready way to leave. Within a year, the last philosophical scientist had gone.

The Archipelago de Colon has by now outgrown such individual and group aberrations. Visitors are now welcomed and well attended. Plane-loads arrive each day from Gayoquil on the mainland. Upon arrival each visitor pays \$80 to enter the Park, which includes all but three per cent of the island area. Some lodge on shore and go out by day cruise to see the Park. Most of them move from plane to a yacht without a night on shore. The boats, 90 in number, move among the 48 designated landing sites. On shore the visitors follow designated paths, hear from a trained and licensed guide about the animals and plants that are observed, and photograph with relish.

The numbers and varieties of wildlife seem all the more lively and colorful against the background of thorny, xerophytic scrub and jagged rocks among which the sea lions bask and bark, snort and flop awkwardly about. Offshore there may be giant sea turtles visible in the clear water and farther out, the spouting of whales.

Inland the vegetation is greener and has fewer spines and thorns. One can see dense, misty stands of *lehaso*, an oddity among daisies for being of small tree size. Besides the famous Darwin finches, one can see yellow warblers and mockingbirds to remind one of home. Best of all one can see giant



Pelicans in the Bay of Santa Fé Island.

land turtles scattered over a pasture, like so many smooth boulders. They are lethargic grazing creatures that may weigh half-a-ton and be old enough to have been at risk to kidnapping pirates.

The islands' forms of life are not numerous compared to those of the mainland. They have fewer than 1000 species of plants, native and introduced; Ecuador has over 20,000. Land bird species number 28, resident sea birds-19, and native mammals-6. There are reptiles but no amphibians. Distance explains the paucity. The chance circumstances of windstorm and current that brought forms of life from 500 miles away are not often repeated.

The Galapagos are again at a critical point in their history. Introduced plants and animals have irretrievably modified an environment made fragile by millennia of isolation. Now daily flights bring tourists and new residents by the thousand each week. To what limits can native forms of

life and landscape cope with such forces?

The Government of Ecuador recognized the precarious state of a national asset. The islands now have a special status. A law to address the situation is in progress.

But concern is more than national. These 40 or so rocky islands and reefs, which are spread out over a remote part of the Pacific, represent a natural and human treasure of the first rank. Support comes from many sources, including our own American aid mission to Ecuador.

Yet to protect and restore such fragile forms of life and beauty are certain to be costly and controversial. Approval and money are on hand for propagating tortoise and studying finches. Will like sources pay for removing 50,000 wild goats? Residents now number 15,000. How to limit them without limiting the tourists? How many yachts and what do they do with their refuse?

Earlier visitors called the pristine Galapagos desolate and dreary. They are no longer pristine and they are no longer desolate and dreary. They are teeming with life and enterprise. The pirates are gone, or at least the kind that bury treasure and fly the skull and cross-bones. In their stead are travelers mostly well-off and mostly departing pleased with their stay. ▲

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

ATTENTION FOREST LANDOWNERS
Don't Miss the Best Chain Saw Training in the World!

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Instructor: Soren Eriksson | |
| Location: Catskill Region of New York | |
| Levels 1 & 2: | August 19 & 20 \$266.00 |
| Level 3: | August 21 \$133.00 |
| Level 4: | August 22 \$133.00 |



As described in the March issue of the *Forest Owner*.

Professional training designed specifically for landowners, loggers, foresters & all other chain saw users.

For Complete Information Contact:
Catskill Forest Association
Attn: GOL
PO Box 336
Arkville NY 12406

CHAPTERS/AFFILIATES

CAPITAL DISTRICT

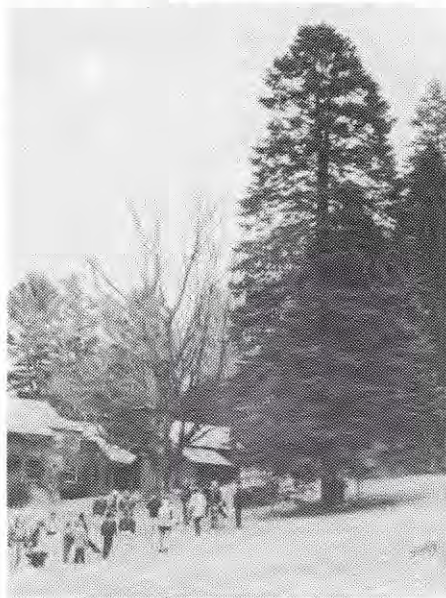
Our May Wildflower woodwalk at the Brennan's was a great success and a record turnout (40). **Mary Brennan** took us to three nearby sites to see Trailing Arbutus, fiddleheads, bloodroot, wild geranium, denturia, red trillium, trout lilies, false hellebore, violets, Canada Mayflower, and May Apple. The group then went on to the Brennan's woods to see their style of management. **Doug Schmidt**, a specialist in rare and endangered plants from DEC, **Tom Stundze**, DEC Region 4 Forester for Columbia County, and **Jim Biel**, Assistant Director DEC Division of Lands and Forests also lent their expertise to the tours.

We are working on the 2nd Annual Woodscanoe. It looks like the date will be **July 29** at 9AM. We will go to Stockport Flats-near-Hudson in the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve. **Rich Guthrie**, an avid birder familiar with that section of the river, will guide us and help us to identify the many wading birds there at that time. Anyone who is interested must **make reservations** by sending us a check for \$3.00 payable to CDC/NYFOA by **July 15**.

Participants provide their own canoes, flotation devices, and lunches. The chapter will provide drinks. (518/753-4336)

WESTERN FINGER LAKES

We had a great turnout for our May meeting at the Cumming Nature Center, thanks to NYS DEC's **Dan Parrent** and **Billy Morris**. Dan discussed "Road & Track Construction and Water Diversions", with assistance from Billy Morris. The following Saturday we enjoyed woodwalks on two different properties: **Dave & Jo Bott** and **Dale Schaefer**. We will have a woodwalk 10 AM, **August 10th**. **Bruce Robinson** will present, "Developing and Implementing a SIP (Stewardship Incentive Program)" at the **Jim & Barbara Minor** woodlot, South of Mecklenburg in Schuyler County. For details call Jim or Barabara at 716/247-7069.



*Southeast Adirondackers and NYS
Champion Concolor Fir.
Photo by Patrica Kay.*

SOUTHEAST ADIRONDACK

On April 13, 1996, our chapter held its spring woodwalk. Over 40 members and guests met at Rathbun's Sugar House in N. Granville for breakfast. After breakfast, owner **Bill Rathbun** gave us a tour of the maple syrup production which included the reverse osmosis machine.

The second stop of the spring event was to view a local logging job and to discuss best management practices. Erosion, designated streams, single tree selection, and over-cutting were some of the topics discussed. The third stop was to view the NYS Champion White Fir located on the **Danforth** property in Dresden. The last stop of the day was focused on stewardship. **George Thomas** of Granville gave a tour of his property featuring Imperial White-Tail Clover food plots, wild apple trees, trails, and forest thinning.

CAYUGA

The following ad ran in our local shopper in response to aggressive solicitations for stumpage:

FARMERS AND WOODLAND OWNERS

Timber values are reaching all time highs and many logging companies are claiming to be "Forest Managers". Get a second opinion as to the value of your woodlands, and understand the consequences of a logging contract before you sign.

Free sources of information are available at:

CAYUGA CHAPTER OF NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS 315/497-1078
CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION 315/255-1183
THE DEC SENIOR FORESTER 607/735-3095

The chapter held its first wildflower woodwalk May 11th on "Lfee" **Signor's** property. Some twenty plants were discovered and described by the leader, **Bill Grow**.

HALE FORESTRY COMPANY

Professional Forestry Consulting
Forest Resource Management Services



TIMBER SALES APPRAISALS
MANAGEMENT PLANS INVENTORIES

In PENNSYLVANIA
MIKE HALE
Westfield, PA
(814) 367-5915

In NEW YORK
RESOURCES CONSULTING
Wellsville, NY
(716) 593-5075

e-mail: bgkelly@buffnet.net
Fax (814) 367-5919

*Society of American Foresters - Pennsylvania Forestry Association
NY Cooperating Consulting Forester - Member NY Forest Owners Association*

LETTERS

ELEGANT KINDLING

I read with interest the article of "Elegant Kindling" by Peter Levatich (NYFO M/A 1996), including his friend's suggestion for making "starters" from artificial fireplace logs. Being a practical person and the consummate recycler years before the word attained its present popularity, I would like to share my method of making no-cost starters. It's a little more work but it's cheap and it works.

Recycle candle stubs. Once your friends know what you're up to, you will be deluged with partly burned candles, some of which you can probably use a few more times before adding them to the stubs. When you have a good supply, place them in an empty metal #10 can and place the can in a pan of water for safety's sake. Never melt wax in the can directly over the fire. When melted, lift out the wicks with a suitable tool and lay them on a newspaper to be cut up later and added to the next batch. Then add sawdust from a workshop or sawmill to make a fairly thick mixture, let it cool a little, and then pour it all into a heavy, cardboard box lined with several thicknesses of waxed paper. When cool, knock the block out of the box and cut into 1 inch cubes.

To use, place one cube on a flat piece of wood and proceed with Mr. Levatich's directions for building a fire. Use cans and cardboard boxes and there will be no waxy clean-up. Keep the can for the next batch or throw it into the recycling bin.

I have painted wooden one quart fruit baskets with a stain made by soaking mushy black walnut hulls in water, which, when filled with starters, wrapped with cellophane, and tied with red or green ribbons, make inexpensive, attractive, useful conversation pieces as Christmas or hostess gifts.

—Wilma Csont, Athol Springs



NY FOREST OWNER

MFO & NYFO PRAISE

I am the owner of a 50 acre woodlot in Cortland County which is primarily used for recreation. Over the past year, I have become more interested in utilizing and improving my property by perhaps harvesting wood, planting trees, improving habitat, etc. Not having any idea where to start, a friend put me in touch with the New York Forest Owners Association.

Through your organization, I contacted Peter Gianforte, a Master Forest Owner/Coverts program volunteer in my area. Peter agreed to walk my property with me. Before we started into the woods, Peter had given me a packet of useful information regarding all aspects of forest management and had asked me about my plans for current and future use of the property.

During our walk, he pointed out things I never would have noticed or known about. I learned more in an hour than I could have imagined. Everything was explained in terms I could understand; all my questions were patiently answered; and never was anything offered as more than a suggestion or option. There was no criticism of anything that had or had not been done to the property from before or after I bought it.

I wanted to publicly thank Peter (of course he would not accept any compensation) and commend your organization for its knowledgeable and professional membership. He was a big help to me and opened my eyes to the many different management options available.

—John Wheeler, Tully

EASEMENT RIGHTS

I am considering a land gift (real estate with one structure) to the National Wildlife Federation.

I would like to know the pros and cons of such donations; perhaps you have covered same in previous issues of THE FOREST OWNER. If so, I would appreciate a copy, or information as to where I might obtain one.

My wife and I would like to retain rights to live in the camp building for the rest of our lives, with the possibility of surviving children retaining similar occupancy rights (and maintenance costs).

Thank you for any information you might be able to supply. Perhaps the subject of land gifts would merit an article in THE FOREST OWNER.

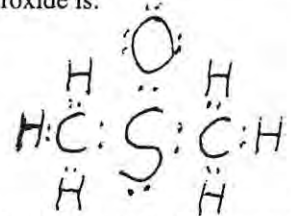
—John Messerly, Fayetteville

[See issues: NYFO: N/D'91,16; M/A'92,5; J/F'95,6; M/A'95,16]

OOPS

I was somewhat aware of the medicinal qualities of DMSO (M/J96,22) and appreciated being reminded of its uses.

Not that it changes the thrust of the article, but the correct representation for Dimethyl Sulfoxide is:



—Russell Seaman, Rougemont, NC

GIFT TAX REVISITED

In the last issue under "Letters", Jane Geisler asked, "How does one transfer title and ownership and avoid the gift tax?"

There are several possible strategies. Which one is best depends upon your financial situation and estate plan goals. In any case, one possibility is to form a partnership with the assets and then give each year shares worth approximately \$10,000.

Also, sometimes it is prudent to use the IRS' \$192,800 unified tax credit during one's lifetime instead of saving it as a credit towards estate taxes.

Of course, a tax advisor - accountant or attorney - should be consulted for professional guidance on the matter. I also will be glad to provide more information about gift tax planning. Ms. Geisler can contact me at 315/470-6683.

—Arthur J. Fritz, SUNY/ESF
[also, see NYFO J/F'95, 6]

POLITICAL PALAVER

I am distressed by the conviction that our representatives at the state and federal levels have demonstrated a remarkable gift of gab in lieu of following through on promises regarding the preservation of the quality of rural life.

While our activities to maintain the attractiveness of Dutchess County spans 47 years, in our three 4-drawer file cabinets, we find that the Almighty Dollar remains the only deciding factor.

Note:

- 1994 NY revenue from Property Taxes was 35.2 Billion, while NY Income Tax only raised 17.1 Billion!

- Open space property should only be taxed when sold (capital gains tax on proceeds above basis), and does not qualify for Ag. or Forest Exemptions.

- It should be illegal to tax real property for other than current use; i.e., for highest and best value (speculative).

—John Geisler, Verbank

HAMILTONS WIN HEIBERG AWARD

As early as three months before the spring meeting, the Awards Committee had determined that the Heiberg Award would be given to Harriet and John Hamilton of Livingston County. (It was reported in the last issue of our FOREST OWNER that Harriet Hamilton had died March 25, 1996.)

Their record begins in 1974, when after the death of Harriet's parents, the Hamiltons assumed management of the family property in the Town of Springwater. While taking over this responsibility, one that had begun in 1965 by Harriet's father, the Hamiltons began a warm and productive friendship with Billy Morris, a young DEC forester from the Bath office. Billy was both an enthusiastic and capable professional forester and gave sound advice and encouragement ever since.

The Hamiltons have hosted many tours of their woodlands, taught a course in Tree I.D. at the Rochester Museum and Science Center, and learned to identify most of the birds, wildflowers, ferns and weeds on their property. Both participated in local political affairs and daily reported the weather to local TV and the National Weather Bureau.

Their holding now totals over 300 acres with more than 200 acres forested. They have been NYFOA members for many years and have been active in the Western



Jack and Harriet at a previous 1992 Awards Ceremony.

Finger Lakes Chapter.

After being recognized as Outstanding Tree Farmers at the state and regional levels, they were awarded National Outstanding Tree Farmers in 1991. Both attended the first Master Forest Owner/COVERTS Workshop held in NY. In January of this year the Hamiltons were appointed Co-Chairs of the New York State Tree Farm Committee responsible for the administration of over 2000 certified Tree Farmers in NY. They were recognized as Livingston County Soil and Wa-

ter Conservation District's Conservationists of the Year for 1995.

Harriet and John Hamilton hold honorary membership in the Society of American Foresters. ▲

Svend O. Heiberg, Professor at the N.Y. College of Forestry at Syracuse, first proposed the establishment of an association of Forest Landowners in NYS. The Heiberg Award is presented to worthy members of the forest community who have made significant contributions to New York forestry.

BETTY DENSMORE WINS NYFOA SERVICE AWARD

The New York Forest Owners Association's Outstanding Service Award for 1996 was presented to Betty Densmore of Machias, Cattaraugus County. Bob Sand, Chairman of the Awards Committee, in presenting the award, applauded Betty's considerable commitment and contribution to NYFOA. Bob cited in particular her leadership efforts in the formation and initial chairing of the very successful Allegheny Foothills Chapter, her initial and continuing role as editor of the chapter's delightful Newsletter, and her hostess efforts at many of the AFC functions, most notable of which was the organization of an outstanding timber harvester workshop.

In 1992 Betty co-hosted a very successful Leadership and Newsletter Editor Workshop for chapter leaders, editors, and NYFOA Board Members. A second workshop is now planned for this coming Fall. Betty received the Allegheny Foothills Chapter's Outstanding Service Award in 1994.



Elizabeth Densmore

Last year, she was elected to her second three year term on the NYFOA Board of Directors and has chaired the Editorial Committee for the last four years.

“not to preserve forests because they are beautiful, though that is good in itself, nor because they are refuges for the wild creatures...but the primary object of our forest policy...is the making of prosperous homes. A forest which contributes nothing to the wealth, progress or safety of the country is of no interest to the government...”

-THEODORE ROOSEVELT, 1903 - from a speech given to the newly formed SAF as reported in an article from *ADIRONDACK LIFE*, M/A 1990

NYFOA's Outstanding Service Award

1978 Emiel Palmer
 1979 Ken Eberly
 1980 Helen Varian
 1981 J. Lewis Dumond
 1982 Lloyd Strombeck
 1983 Evelyn Stock
 1984 Dorothy Wertheimer
 1985 David H. Hanaburgh
 1986 A. W. Roberts, Jr.
 1987 Howard O. Ward
 1988 Mary & Stuart McCarty
 1989 Alan R. Knight
 1990 Earl Pfarner
 1991 Helen & John Marchant
 1992 Richard J. Fox
 1993 Wesley E. Suhr
 1994 Alfred B. Signor
 1995 Betty & Don Wagner
 1996 Betty Densmore

THE HEIBERG AWARD

1966 Hardy Shirley
 1967 David B. Cook
 1968 Floyd Carlson
 1969 Mike Demerce
 1970 No Award
 1971 Fred Winch, Jr.
 1972 John Stock
 1973 Robert M. Ford
 1974 C. Eugene Farnsworth
 1975 Alex Dickson
 1976 Edward W. Littlefield
 1977 Maurine Postley
 1978 Ralph Nyland
 1979 Fred C. Simmons
 1980 Dr. William Harlow
 1981 Curtis H. Bauer
 1982 Neil B. Gutchess
 1983 David W. Taber
 1984 John W. Kelley
 1985 Robert G. Potter
 1986 Karen B. Richards
 1987 Henry G. Williams
 1988 Robert M. Sand
 1989 Willard G. Ives
 1990 Ross S. Whaley
 1991 Robert S. Stegemann
 1992 Bonnie & Don Colton
 1993 Michael C. Greason
 1994 Douglas C. Allen
 1995 John C. Marchant
 1996 Harriet & John Hamilton

TREE FARM SYSTEM AWARDS



Jack Hamilton (l) presents NYS Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year Award to Charlotte and Bruce Baxter (left).

By Jack Hamilton NYS Committee Chair

The Tree Farm System has awards presented annually at state, regional, and national levels for Outstanding Tree Farmers (OTFs) and Outstanding Inspecting Foresters (OIFs). There are also state awards for Area Chairs and special awards for inspecting foresters who certify more than 50 new Tree Farms.

For the OTF the awards vary from a plaque and gifts from forestry suppliers at state and regional levels, to a trip to the National Convention with further gifts at the national level. The state OTF may serve on the state executive committee and regional and national OTFs on the national operating committee. State OTFs are nominated by inspecting foresters and chosen by the Tree Farm executive committee. The awards are based on commitment and excellence of management of forest, wildlife, recreation, aesthetics, and promotion of forest management to others.

The Regional OTF is nominated by the state chairs and competes with the other state nominees (23 in our region). Applications are reviewed and voted on by the region's state chairs. Then the top three have on-site inspections by the National Tree Farm staff who make the final decision. The National OTF is chosen by vote of the national operating committee members after review of the four regional OTF applications.

The OIFs are nominated by either area chairs or other inspecting foresters and chosen by the state executive committee based upon the number of new and recertifications completed in the past year as well as the promotion of forest management to others. The regional and national nominations



John Hastings (above) with earlier award.

are similar to the OTF selection without the on site visit. There are special "hard hat" awards for certifying new Tree Farmers. Bronze hard hats are awarded for 50, silver for 75, and gold for 100. An even more prestigious award is a special desk plaque awarded as a "gold plus hard hat" for 150 or more; to date, only two have been awarded in NY.

This year the OTF award was presented to **Bruce and Charlotte Baxter** for their 26 year management of 150 acres in North Sanford, Broome County. The Baxters have done TSI, had commercial timber sales, built four ponds, several roads, and planted hardwoods and 250,000 conifers, as well as hosting many tours and events for the public and other tree farmers. (**Gerry Kachmor**, NYS DEC Region 7 Sr. Forester, was the nominating Inspecting Forester.)

John Hastings, a DEC forester in Warrensburg, received both the OIF award and the gold plus hard hat award for certifying 162 new Tree Farms and in the past year certifying four new and recertifying 33 tree farms.

NYS WOODSMEN'S SURVEY NEEDS HELP

In 1997, the NYS Woodsmen's Field Days will celebrate its 50 year Anniversary. To provide some statistical data for the occasion, **David Taber** will head up a Random Sample Survey Committee of the NYSWFD Corporation. The committee seeks volunteers to interview people on the Boonville Fairgrounds, Friday thru Sunday, August 16-18, 1996. The two-page survey consists of 20 questions and many volunteers are needed to obtain 150 completed forms per day.

The survey will provide comparative data from previous surveys and thereby help track change and provide important information about the attributes of the crowd for the Woodsmen's Corporation.

For more information or to register as a volunteer, contact David Taber, Trees and Associates, 420 Meadow Road, Syracuse, NY 13219; or phone: 315/468-3716.

Forests are Essential to Our Lives

49th New York State Woodsmen's Field Days

Forestry Public Seminar

Adirondack High School; Ford Street (Rte 294), Boonville, NY
6:15 PM Registration; 6:45 PM Door Prizes & Introductions

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 1996

Forestry and Wildlife benefits through Sustainable Forestry Practices

Featuring the following topics and speakers

With moderator David W. Taber of Cornell Cooperative Extension

And audience participation via aisle microphones:

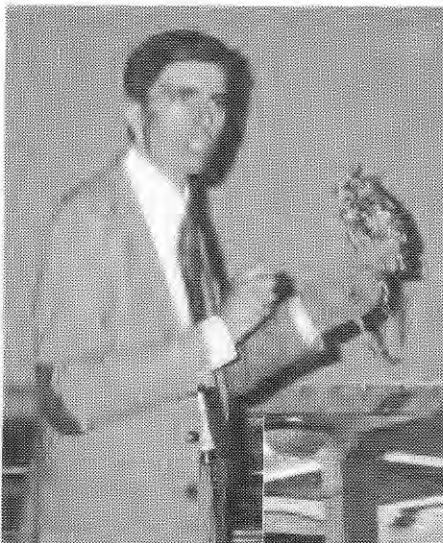
- **"Certified Well-Managed Forests"**—John W. McNulty, VP, Seven Islands Land Co., Bangor, ME.
- **"The Nature of Things"**—John A. Weeks, Naturalist and Commentator, Radio Station WRVO.
- **"The Sustainable Forestry Initiative in NYS"**—James P. Campopiano, International Paper, Inc.
- **Refreshments, Meet the Speakers, and Socialize. Adjourn 10 PM**

Broadcast by Radio Stations WBRV (900 AM & 101.3 FM) Boonville;
WLLG (99.3 FM) Lowville and Audio on TCI Cable TV Channel 11, Lowville

Sponsored by: Cornell Cooperative Extension

In cooperation with: the Empire State Forest Products Association, the New York Forest Owners Association, and New York Logger Training, Inc.

SPRING MEETING



Michael Gaylo (left); Raptors, Birds of Prey

Jim Peek (right); Back Yard Lumber Drying



NYFOA Members (below) after the Awards Ceremonies



DEATH AND TAXES

By David J. Colligan

Forest management and planning are the basis upon which the NYFOA was founded and built. Many people have devoted hundreds of hours per year to preparing and implementing their tree farm management plans. Most have spent only a small amount of time planning for the future distribution of their estates, of which, their tree farm is an important and valuable component. Although most forest owners consider estate planning an important subject, they have a difficult time focusing on it because of the inter-relationship between death taxes, basic estate planning considerations and the forms of ownership in which forest property can be held. This article will discuss some of the basics of estate planning.

Federal Estate and Gift Taxes

Whoever said that "the only things certain in life are death and taxes" may have been alluding to the fact that they are closely intertwined. The federal tax on estates is calculated prior to distribution. The federal gift tax is calculated on any lifetime gifts. The two used to be separate taxes but are now combined as the Federal Unified Gift and Estate Tax Law. Taxable lifetime gifts and property distributed at death are both subject to a rate structure that effectively begins at 37% and continues to 55%. A unified credit of \$192,800 also applies to both taxes. This credit will shield \$600,000 of transferred property from federal tax, but, when combined with the exemption for state estate tax, it equals the sum of about \$643,000 in NYS.

Lifetime gifts between spouses may be made at any time and in any amount totally free of tax. This is because of the unlimited marital deduction which applies in both lifetime gifting and in estate planning. In addition, any person may make a tax free gift of \$10,000 per person per year to an unlimited number of recipients. For example, if someone wished to create a family limited partnership (see NYFO J/F95,6) and gift \$10,000 worth of forest land to each one of their five children and their children's spouses, a full \$100,000 could be transferred tax-free in one year. (One donor x 10 donees = \$100,000).

There is no offset against the unified credit when the \$10,000 gift tax exemption is utilized. If a gift in any one year exceeds the \$10,000 per donee, a portion of the unified credit previously referred to is utilized to shield the gift from present taxation. This has the effect of reducing the

unified credit available at death for estate planning purposes. In the event the unified credit is entirely used up against lifetime taxable gifts, there will be no credit left to apply against taxes due at death. This does not affect the marital deduction which still would be available on an unlimited basis at death.

Lifetime gifting is perhaps the best device available to the average person for estate planning purposes. It has many advantages such as reducing the overall estate size and transferring appreciating assets out of an estate to avoid taxation at death. The disadvantages include loss of the "step up" in tax basis which occurs upon death and loss of control of the parcel.

Special planning devices such as the family limited partnership may allow the owner to retain control of the management of the parcel while gifting to family members its value for tax purposes.

Many estates containing forest land will not be subject to federal estate tax because of the unlimited marital deduction or the unified credit or both; some, however, are going to be subject to federal estate taxes. Some forest land will not be passing to the surviving spouse and in some cases, there is no surviving spouse. Property values generally rise, and timber prices have seen rapid increases in recent years. When these values are combined with those of other assets, including life insurance proceeds that may be part of the estate, the \$600,000 taxable threshold can easily be surpassed.

New York State Estate and Gift Taxes

Like the federal government, NYS has an estate tax. Since most property held by NYFOA members is located within NY, NYS laws govern its disposition upon death regardless of the residence of the owner at the time of death. New York's estate tax credit only protects up to \$115,000. There is an additional \$250,000 deduction applicable for the primary residence. Therefore many more estates are subject to NYS estate taxes than are subject to Federal estate taxes. Estate tax liens are clouds on the title which restrict the transfer of title before the estate taxes are paid.

Types of Ownership

The form of ownership of forest land interacts with estate planning and death taxes by determining who the property is passed to and what is the tax effect of the transfer.

Sole ownership is the simplest form of

ownership. Property solely owned passes by will, or if no will, by the New York law of intestacy. Joint ownership, involves ownership by more than one person, each having an "undivided interest" in the property. In NY there are three forms of joint ownership which may apply. The first form of joint ownership is called a "**tenancy by the entirety**". Tenancy by the entirety is essentially ownership by husband and wife. The only time that tenancy by the entirety will not apply is when the deed transferring the property to the husband and wife specifically states that the individuals do not wish to have the tenancy by the entirety rules apply. Tenancy by the entirety gives either party the right of survivorship and protects the marital property from certain claims of creditors.

Another form of joint ownership is called "**joint tenancy, with the right of survivorship**". This form of ownership passes the property by operation of law at the time of death of one joint owner to the other joint owner(s). This form of joint ownership is similar to the tenancy by the entirety, but usually is ownership by other than husband and wife. Under joint tenancy, property passes outside of the probate estate and therefore, any will provisions which direct the distribution of property will not effect real property with the right of survivorship. The third form of joint ownership is called "**tenancy in common**". This means that although jointly owned, there is no right of survivorship and any of the joint owners wills can direct the distribution of property in accordance with the testator's desire. Creditors have certain rights against both joint tenants with rights of survivorship and tenants in common that are not available against tenants by the entirety.

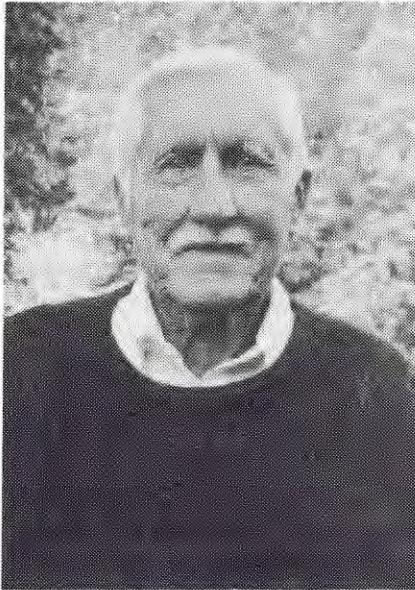
Other forms of ownership include partnerships, which are an association of two or more persons formed for a particular purpose. It may be possible for a partnership to exist without a written agreement. Upon the death of a partner, the decedent's share of the partnership's assets are distributed from the estate.

The foregoing is the legal foundation upon which all estates are built. Each of the three main components must be kept in mind with respect to how they inter-relate. Each person should review their estate plan with their legal advisors. ▲

Dave Colligan is a practicing attorney with a Buffalo law firm and regularly provides articles on legal matters of interest to forest owners.

THE NYS FOREST PRACTICE ACT OF 1946

REFLECTIONS OF 50 YEARS



Victor Johnson

In 1946 we assembled for our first meeting. Charles Baker, our first Chief Forester, conducted this organizational meeting at which he gave the reason for our coming together (Forest Practice Act 1946) and the challenges that lay ahead. From then on we started to get acquainted and fifty years later I will give my impressions of my association with a group of foresters and county appointees dedicated to furthering good timber-cutting practices.

A program evolved that involved forest landowners in the management of their property under guidance by state service foresters and cost-sharing programs. Such forest landowners were called "cooperators". I maintain that this program was very successful for a long time. Eventually, it was phased out in part due to budget and other economic reasons although log quality had increased immensely.

Prior to this, "reforestation" had been a state and federal program enlarged upon in the 1930s. The Forest Practice Board strongly picked up on this activity and for

many years it became a robust endeavor, both privately and on state property. It spawned a large industry in log homes. It also resulted in a beautiful green countryside as hilltops and hillsides become a productive source of soft woods for pulp and houses.

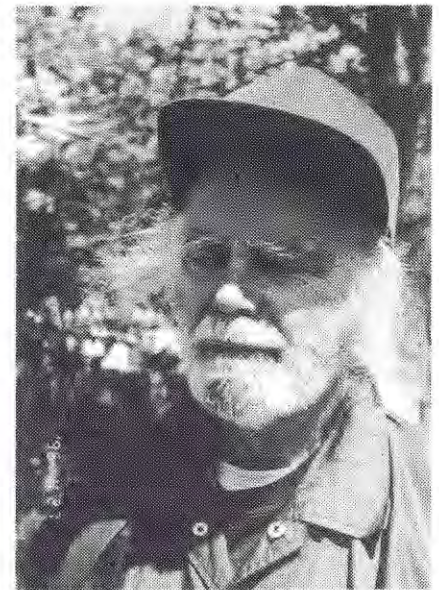
We also got involved in disease control, fish and game habitats, creek protection and timber selection. We favored the "glamour" species such as cherry, maple, ash, oak, etc., while winnowing out defective and crooked trees. This made the woodlands better and also made room for the preferred species. Log betterment continues in today's activities of the Forest Practice Board.

I wish to say something about the make-up of our district boards. I believe that our personnel, both state foresters and county appointees are truly dedicated to the betterment of the environment. I have always noticed at our meetings that even on our luncheon breaks we keep talking about the matters of the meeting. That, to me, denotes an effort to accomplish. These boards are so necessary for the continuance of the good works already in motion.

I also wish to say something about tree species. I feel our organization helped focus on the importance of keeping the trees we have free of disease. The American Chestnut was pretty well gone fifty years ago, and the American Elm shortly thereafter. We are somewhat at a loss to revive these valuable trees, but we are not giving up. At the age of eighty-three, I have but one more hope and wish and that is, one day the beautiful American Elm will grace this land in the majestic way it did when I was a young man. ▲

Vic Johnson has represented Madison County first at the Conservation Department's District 3 Forest Practice Board and, finally, DEC'S Region 7 FPB continuously for fifty years.

AN EARLY COOPERATOR



Walter R. McAllester

I was discharged from the US Navy in 1946 and enrolled in the College of Forestry at Syracuse University under the G.I. Bill. With money earned working for the US Forest Service in Idaho during my first summer vacation, I bought abandoned farmland adjacent to the Shindegan State Forest in Tioga County.

I became an early cooperator under the Forest Practice Act and was able to plant the fields to pine in accord with a management plan prepared by the state service forester.

After I graduated in 1950, I continued to work for the US Fish and Wildlife Service adding lands to the National Wildlife Refuge System.

After the death of my wife in 1985, I retired and turned my attention to improving this woodland that had been neglected during my career and the raising of a family. I thinned the unmarketable pine plantations with cost-sharing under the forest improvement program and removed poor quality trees from the hardwood areas for firewood. I joined the New York Forest Owners Association and was appointed to the Region 7 Forest Practice Board as a landowner representative of Tioga County.

I am now harvesting small logs from the pine plantations and the hardwoods are approaching real profitability. I continue to enjoy a very satisfying retirement on my "Prospect Valley Tree Farm". ▲

Walt was asked to provide this short biographical sketch because of his long association (nearly fifty years) as a landowner cooperator under the Forest Practice Act.

We Have the Furnace that Fits YOUR Needs



For further information on NEWMAC furnaces, call

The Wood Shed

Coleman Road, Red Creek, N.Y. 13143

315/626-6824 Toll Free 800/724-3950



WE HAVE

- Wood • Oil • Gas
 - Electric
 - Wood - Coal
 - Wood - Oil
 - Wood - Coal - Oil
- FURNACES AND BOILERS

JAPANESE KNOTWEED

By John S. Braubitz

Sound interesting? Is it some exotic weed or a special new plant that can be purchased in a new spring catalog? That is what I might have thought last spring not realizing that my property and the whole county was teeming with these plants.

Many of us have been filling our trash cans and compost piles with these plants, never recognizing that they were edible or even caring if they had a name.

Every spring I look forward to collecting wild herbs like Burdock, Dandelion, Milkweed, Leek, and Wild Asparagus. But never once did I ever consider that nuisance plant, I used to refer to as "the bamboo plant", to be anything but trouble.

My enlightenment came when my youngest daughter entered the kitchen chewing on an unfamiliar red stem. I immediately asked her what she was eating. She replied, "Rhubarb plant." After examining the stem, I could see that it was not rhubarb! It had a hollow stem, and nodes, just like that junk bamboo plant behind the house. "Throw it away", I told her, "It might make you sick." She replied, "But it tastes just like rhubarb, and we have been eating it behind the school playground for years. Try some, Dad!" I was in no mood to argue. "It's no good, throw it away!", I stated emphatically. She did.

But after she left the kitchen, I became concerned. Could this plant be poisonous? I wasn't even sure of the plant's true name. Some people called it the bamboo plant, knotweed, or simply the trash plant. If I had a specimen possibly I could identify it using my plant taxonomy manual. With some anxiety, I left the house to obtain some samples.

The young plant shoots resemble asparagus but with hollow stems. It looked somewhat like a cross between asparagus and bamboo. The leaves on the larger plants are heart shaped to oval. The stems were only two to three feet tall, but I knew that these plants, when mature, attain heights of eight to ten feet.

After collecting several typical plants, I went to my study to identify these plants once and for all. They keyed out to "Japanese Knotweed" (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) It was not only non-poisonous, but listed as edible, a combination fruit-vegetable. I became so ex-

cited I could hardly wait to see what Euell Gibbons had to say about this plant. He had three pages written about it, and several recipes. His recommendation was that you collect this plant in the month of May.

I picked up a brown bag, my collection knife, and off I went on my first Knotweed hunt. After about ten minutes, I collected some three pounds of succulent stems.

I peeled the thin membrane from the outer surface of the stems, cut them into small pieces, and placed them into a large cast iron frying pan. Next I added a small amount of water and sugar to taste, while cooking them with the burner on low heat. As they simmered, a pleasant odor invited consumption. After about fifteen minutes, it seemed done. With great anticipation, I tested the sauce; the flavor was very pleasant and resembled a mild rhubarb.

After some experimentation, I found that the non-wody succulent portions of the stems from one to three feet tall were best. In the beginning of the season you can be selective because these crispy stalks are very abundant, but later in the season, you will be required to collect the youngest portion of the plant, and some of those may be a little fibrous. These fibers may be removed by passing the stems through a strainer and only using the pulp.

The plant stems may be eaten as a vegetable or a fruit.

Here are a couple of recipes, I have used:



Figure 2. Early growth on older plant.

KNOTWEED PIE

- 4 Cups - Knotweed stems
- 1 1/2 Cups - sugar
- 5 Tablespoons - flour
- 1 Tablespoon - grated orange peel

Pour ingredients into pie shell.
Place 2 1/2 Tablespoons of butter, scattered on top of mixture. Cover with crust and bake at 400° for 45-55 minutes.



Figure 1. Early shoots.

KNOTWEED APPETIZER

- 1 Cup - diced Knotweed stems
- 1 Cup - chicken or beef broth
- 1 small diced onion
- 1 Teaspoon - cornstarch

Add salt, pepper, and sugar to taste
A few diced potatoes, optional
Heat mixture and then simmer for 20 minutes

Knotweed stems may be substituted for most Rhubarb and some Asparagus recipes.

When this plant was first cultivated in Europe, Sir Joseph Hooker called it the noblest species. ▲

John Braubitz is a Professor in the Science Department at Cayuga County Community College. This article appeared in THE CITIZEN of Auburn some ten years earlier.

Custom Signs

Voss Signs

Dept. NYF, Box 553, Manlius, N.Y. 13104
Ph. (315) 682-6418
(Mon.-Fri. 9-5)

Family Owned & Operated for over 25 years

CORNELL'S NEW EXTENSION FORESTER

Dr. Peter Smallidge is Cornell Cooperative Extension's new State Extension Forester as of June 1996. He will provide leadership for statewide programming directed at improving the comprehensive management of NY's forest resources. Important audiences include County Cooperative Extension educators, state and private consulting foresters, and the one-quarter million non-industrial forest owners of NY State. Dr. Smallidge will work collaboratively with Cornell Faculty, state and federal agencies, nongovernmental environmental and land use organizations, faculty at SUNY

College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and with Cooperative Extension staff of other NE States in developing and delivering programs for these audiences.

Smallidge's programs will focus on the ecological components of forest management, delivered via regional workshops, publications, videos, professional meetings and satellite video conferences. He will be involved in the ongoing "Master Forest Owner/COVERTS Volunteer Program" and provide valuable assistance in the development and delivery of educational efforts proposed as part of the NY City Watershed

Initiative. Specific Programs will address developing management plans incorporating forest stewardship and high quality forest products from private forest lands, watershed protection through Best Management Plans (BMPs), and vegetation management on rights-of-ways.

Dr. Smallidge comes to us from Frostburg State University. He earned his doctorate at SUNY/ESF. His office address is: Dept. of Natural Resources, Rm. 116 Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-3001.

NY LOGGER TRAINING PROVIDES BENEFITS

By David Taber, Trees & Assoc.

Kevin King, Executive Vice President of the Empire State Forest Products Association (ESFPA) expects 200 NY loggers to be certified in 1996 as having voluntarily completed "Trained Logger Certification" (TLC) requirements for initial certification.

Kevin Regan, President of New York Logger Training, Inc. (NYLT), noted that NYLT is affiliated with the ESFPA, after originally being a committee of ESFPA. Regan praised the commitment and dedication of many timber harvesters and affiliated forest industry businesses and employees who have been involved in recent NYLT activities. "NYLT is helping to provide recognition for the professionalism of many of NY's loggers and timber harvesters."

The NY Logger Training is a group of timber harvesters, forest industry, government, and education representatives formed to coordinate the delivery of resources to timber harvesters which will help them to improve their skills and environmentally sound practices, enabling a safer means to greater productivity, more profitability, and a better quality of life.

NY Logger Training was incorporated in 1994, based on activities and meetings that date back over 8 years. An initial strategic planning meeting was held in 1988 in Syracuse and attended by representatives of ESFPA, NYS Woodsmen's Field Days Corporation, NYS DEC, SUNY/ESF, and Cornell Cooperative Extension. It was agreed that harvester training should address three general areas: 1) Business man-

agement skills; 2) Compliance with environmental guidelines, and 3) On-site woods operations.

In 1989, the ESFPA Board approved the training concept and at the annual Fall Meeting, the membership recommended a "Timber Harvester Training Consortium".

In July, 1990, the ESFPA "Logger Training Activities Update" newsletter by James Campopiano, Chairman of ESFPA's Logger Training Committee included the following reflections:

A group of interested industrial people, government representatives, and educators calling itself, "The Logger Training Committee", has been meeting regularly to formulate a program which focuses on several immediate needs. These include areas such as meeting OSHA requirements, Safety, Hazard Abatement, Good Logging Practices, business management for loggers, and equipment operation & maintenance.

This spring, NYLT, Inc.'s President Kevin Regan said, "Well trained and knowledgeable owners, managers, and other crew members of logging businesses can meet more efficiently, the objectives of forest owners, implement sound ecological decisions relative to biological diversity, and make sound contributions to the practice of sustainable forestry.

For the "NYLT Calendar" of activities, the NYLT "Logging Safety Videotape Library Borrower Request" form, or information about Trained Logger Certification (TLC) by NYLT (for loggers that have completed training in three components of TLC; i.e., Forest Ecology and Silviculture, Safety and Productivity, and First Aid/CPR), contact NYLT at 123 State Street, Albany, NY 12207 or phone 518/463-1297. ▲

En Rapport With Earth

The universe is in love with motion;
All things sway with the wind.
Wiggling, never quite still, bush and tree,
Free and beautiful, mingled in misty communion,
One part with another, valley and hill.

Mobility is a language en rapport with earth,
Coupled with sound, the obvious and the subtle,
The thunder of summer storms, whispers of warm wind,
A world perceptible yet not fully perceived
As though it were wedded to all humanity
And yet from all relieved.

Always the tomorrows will come
And tomorrow is the storm and the sun,
And each greenly glowing tree will
Shed crystal beads of rain down,
Riding to its end each natural rage
With comfort to earth in subtle shades.

By
Dorothy S.
Darling

Be on the lookout for BRUCE SPANWORM

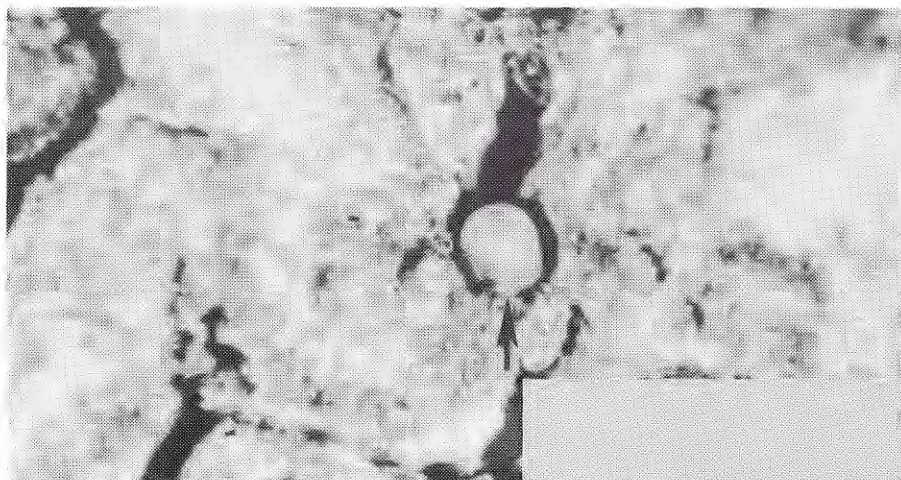


Fig. 1: Bruce spanworm egg.

By Douglas C. Allen

This is another one of those native defoliators in the inchworm or looper family that sporadically damages broadleaved trees. It is resident in northern forests from New Foundland and the Maritimes, west through the Great Lakes to Alaska.

In the east, widespread heavy defoliation has occurred in Vermont and Quebec periodically since the late 1950s. Outbreaks last from three to five years, and may cover extensive areas. For example, in 1957 an infestation in Quebec encompassed 10,000 sq. miles! To the best of my knowledge Bruce spanworm has caused only minor defoliation in New York, but I bring it to your attention; because in recent years scattered areas of defoliation have surfaced in our area.

About the Name

Entomologists often name an insect after a person who makes a significant contribution to the discovery of that species or materially adds to an understanding of its biology. Such is the case here. George Hulst, founder of the Brooklyn Entomological Society in 1872, described this insect as a new species in 1886 and gave it the specific name *bruceata* in honor of "a veteran and successful lepidopterist who ascertained its history" — a Mr. Bruce from Brockport, NY!

Hosts

Bruce spanworm has a wide range of hosts, as one would expect given its transcontinental distribution. In our region, preferred hosts are sugar maple and beech, but feeding may also occur on birches, cherries, quaking aspen, willow, and service-berry.

Past experience in the northeast indi-



Fig. 2: Bruce spanworm caterpillar.

cates that sugar maple is a key host; that is, outbreaks typically center around this species. The removal of beech from the overstory of many hardwood stands by beech bark disease and the dramatic increase in the abundance of sugar maple relative to other northern hardwoods as indicated in the most recent forest inventory (see NYFO, M/A 96), suggests to me that Bruce spanworm may become more prevalent.

Life Stages and Seasonal History

Eggs are green when first laid beneath bark scale, pieces of lichen, or in bark crevices on the tree trunk (Fig. 1), but they turn bright orange prior to overwintering. Usually egg hatch occurs at the time of budbreak; and larvae feed on expanding foliage. If tree growth is delayed by weather conditions, however, the caterpillars bore through bud scales and destroy foliage before it has an opportunity to expand.

Full grown caterpillars are approximately one inch long and usually bright green, though the ground color of some individuals may be very dark to almost black (Fig. 2). Regardless of color, the caterpillar has a set of three longitudinal white to yellowish-white stripes on each side. Caterpillars generally feed on the underside of leaves or are concealed between

leaves that they fold and tie together with silk. Peak defoliation usually occurs during the first week of June but this, too, can vary with seasonal conditions.

When feeding is complete, usually by late June, spanworms drop to the ground and pupate in the litter. Adults do not emerge until October or November, at which time, the wingless, brown white-spotted females crawl to a host and mate and deposit eggs on the lower tree trunk. These moths can be distinguished from the wingless females of other loopers, because

their relatively large body scales give them a "roughened" appearance. Males have a wing span of an inch or so and, like most looper moths, are characterized by a thin body and delicate looking wings. The front wings are semi-transparent and banded with grey or brown. The latter often appear as scalloped lines. Bruce spanworm males are one of several species of moths referred to as "hunter's moths" because they are active in late fall.

Significance

Experience in Quebec and Vermont indicates that because feeding occurs very early in the growing season, heavily defoliated trees usually refoliate. Maple mortality is unusual, but as is the case with any defoliation episode, if this stress occurs along with other disturbances such as drought, intensive concurrent silvicultural activities or late season defoliation, the probability of tree mortality increases. Extensive foliage loss and/or refoilation may lower sap production in sugar bushes.

Photos courtesy of Ron Kelley, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Morrisville. ▲

This is the 27th in the series of articles contributed by Dr. Allen, Professor of Entomology at SUNY/ESF.

AFRAID OF THE WOODS?

By Jane Sorensen Lord, PhD, OTR, ND
Stress. You could call it stress. You could also call it anxiety or fear. Even panic.

They were the feelings I had ten years ago, just after we bought the land, when I entered my woodlot and went in far enough to lose sight of the tree line. Granted, because of the feelings, I didn't go in very far—the trees seemed to close in fast.

After a month of anxiety, I bought cans of white spray paint to dot the trees and was able to get in and out by following them. You still run across them today!

Then Wayne Cooper, our DEC forester at the time, pointed out that all my forested land went up hill and to get out, all I had to do was go down hill. That made it easier, although in many spots it is easier to go up than down! The meaning of the expression, "by the seat of her pants", became painfully evident.

We harvested timber and the logging path opened the woods from front to back. The familiarity bred courage and curios-

ity; and, little by little, I became comfortable in the woods. Now I can take someone up the hill by the path and bushwhack back from anywhere. And they are the ones with stress and anxiety.

But they don't have to suffer as I did.

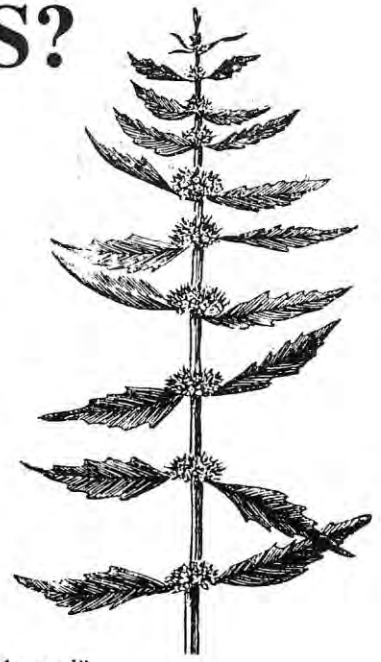
Back then I knew and used medicinal plants and trees. I used bottled extracts and tinctures and professionally dried plants. But the living ones were unassociated to the dry twigs and leaves. I had no idea what they looked like alive.

Learning was a question of picking plants in the woods, bringing them back to identify them in plant guides, and then looking them up in herbals. Early on, I had someone from our local Cornell Cooperative Extension Office out to help. She knew all about soils, crops, and plants that were domesticated in gardens, but little about the plants on my forest floor. So I learned slowly by myself.

Now when someone gets anxious, I'll grab and crush a sweet fern and have them smell. Or the twigs of a black birch; the smell is as soothing mentally as the oil is to physical aches. Even crushed white pine or hemlock needles divert the mental focus. In fact, probably the act of having someone pick and crush any leaf to see if it smells solves the problem—a placebo effect.

Once our visitors are down and into the gardens, they can smell or make a tea from lavender, mint, balm, chamomile, valerian, or primrose. But usually, by then, they are not nervous anymore, but full of confidence and joy that they made it out alive and well.

Last week I was up in the woods about two thirds of the way back to the line and started to walk North across one of the narrow plateaus that break the fall of the hills. (Our Tree Farm is in the Schwangunk Val-



"Bugleweed"

ley, on the north side, so we are in the foothills of the Catskills—it keeps on going up from here!)

As I walked into an opening of about a quarter of an acre, I stepped on a carpet of bugleweed. The spot was opened when they harvested large trees from it in 1987. The first year it grew thistle; the Scottish type that grow four or five feet high with a purple flower. Locals told me that it showed we had good soil (not surprising since the trees harvested from this area were the best we had). And my Gerard's, revised from 1633, History of Plants says they were good for toothache.

The thistles have been a presence ever since along with ferns; but the profusion of bugleweed seemed to have snuck up on the land. I sat down on a log and ogled at the masses of the small purple plants.

Bugleweed, no longer in favor as a medicinal herb, was used to heal wounds and drunk to break up blood clots in the body, helping the liver to cleanse the blood. It was used for gum disease, too.

I picked and crushed a plant between my fingers. It was pungent, unfamiliar, and not unpleasant; I could feel myself relax. I remembered reading somewhere that bugleweed was used to treat schizophrenia and other psychotic reactions. The ultimate form of anxiety, I mused.

"Where were you?", I thought, "You should have been here 10 years ago, when I really needed you!" ▲

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 and teaches on the Faculty of Health at Indianapolis University.



"Thistle"

LANDOWNERS

Maples, Cherry & Red Oak are in strong demand, if you are interested in selling some of your standing Timber consider...

- Each tree to be sold is marked according to YOUR specifications.
- We send notices to reputable log producers & exporters
- Sealed bid opening determines the highest bidder
- Payment is made in advance to any harvest operation
- All harvest operations are supervised by our foresters
- We retain a security deposit until owner is completely satisfied.
- Guaranteed to net YOU the highest price for your timber.

Write or Call For A Free Pamphlet

Robert Synowiez - Professional Forestry Consultants



timberland

Box 498, W. Beecher Hill Rd., Owego, NY 13827
 607/687-0460

The Marketplace

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

MEADOWVIEW NURSERY: QUALITY FIELDGROWN SEEDLINGS AND TRANSPLANTS for reforestation and establishing wildlife habitat. SPECIALIZING IN NUT TREE & WETLAND VARIETIES. P.O. Box 241, Byron, NY 14422 (716) 548-2207 FAX (716) 548-9014.

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

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

WHITE OAK NURSERY: DECIDUOUS SEEDLINGS, TUBE-GROWN SEEDLINGS, WHIPS TO 5 FT, including most commercial hardwoods and the premier native ornamental shade trees and flowering shrubs of the East. 8456 Harpers Ferry Road., Springwater NY 14560, Livingston County. 716/669-2178.

FOR SALE: 92 acres, Chautauqua County, one third forested with pond and stream. Abuts state land, near East Side Overland Trail. Great family investment. \$70,000. 716/664-7097.

ADVERTISING RATES

Per Insert:

Display: \$210 — per full page or 30 col. in.; \$7 per col. in.

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

Contact: R.J. Fox, Editor
RD 3, Box 88,
Moravia, NY
13118
Fax/Phone:
(315) 497-1078

Circulation 1950.

FORECON, INC.

JAMESTOWN, NY OFFICE
100 East Second Street
Jamestown, New York 14701
(716) 664-5602
(716) 664-6648 Facsimile

CORTLAND, NY OFFICE
11 North Main Street
Suite 202
Cortland, NY 13045
(607) 753-3113
(607) 753-9170 Facsimile

TIMBERLAND REALTY OFFICE
100 East Second Street
Jamestown, NY 14701
(716) 664-5602
(716) 664-6648 Facsimile



SPECIALIZING IN:

- Timber Sale Administration
- Timber Management Planning
- Timber & Timberland Appraisals
- Timber Taxation Planning

FOrestry - Recreation - Ecology - CONservation

R.J. Fox, Editor
RD#3, Box 88
Moravia, NY 13118
Fax/Phone (315) 497-1078

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Moravia, N.Y.
13118
Permit No. 21

NOTICE

THE FOREST OWNER is mailed third class and will **not** be forwarded; notify Administrative Secretary Debbie Gill, PO Box 180, Fairport 14450 or call 1/800/836/3566 with a **change in address!**

WFL 9608
DEBBIE GILL
NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOC.
PO BOX 180
FAIRPORT, NY 14450



FOUNDED 1963



Adirondack Forestry Inc.

Incorporated 1955

Services Include:

- Timber Inventory
- Timber Appraisal
- Management Plans
- Timber Marking & Sales
- Sale Supervision
- Trespass Appraisal
- S.I.P. Plans

Free first consultation Phone:

Garry L. Nelson • (518) 793-9022
James A. Farrar • (518) 623-9449
Dennis M. Flynn • (518) 581-1055

Member of SAF, NYFOA,
Tree Farm, NYS Coop. Cons. For.
E-Mail: [CDALEBIKE @ ao1.com](mailto:CDALEBIKE@ao1.com)

PONDS UNLIMITED INVITES YOU....

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.

PONDS UNLIMITED CAN EVALUATE the site of your choice. We can provide all of the engineering services needed to plan, design and oversee the construction of a dam to create a handsome pond or lake on suitable property. You can get additional information by calling 315/422-POND or sending a letter of inquiry to:

PONDS UNLIMITED

719 E. Genesee St.
Syracuse, NY 13210
315/422-7663
FAX/476-3635

WOODLOT CALENDAR

JUL 13: SEA; 9AM;
Woodswalk; Ticonderoga;
518/792-1726.

JUL 29: CDC; 9AM;
Woodscanoe by Rich Guthrie;
Stockport Flats; 518/753-
4336.

AUG 10: WFL; 10AM; Using
SIP: Bruce Robinson: Minor's
Woodlot; 716/247-7069.

AUG 16: 6PM; Forestry Semi-
nar; 49Th Woodsmen's Field
Days; Boonville; 315/942-
4593.

SEP 28, 29: CFA; NYFOA's
FALL MEETING: The
Catskills.