

The New York
FOREST OWNER

A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association

January/February 1997



Trees

*As though vessels of silent communion
Limbs splay out their countless twigs
That seem to intertwine, and now adorned
With mystic mounds of feathery white,
They lean mild and tenuous in the gray light*

By

Dorothy Darling

Trees

*Soft snowflakes descended the chill air
To gently cloak this gathering of trees
And lay a carpet of white at their feet;
A whisper of wind envisioned elfin lore
But t'was nature's creation and nothing more.*

**THE NEW YORK
FOREST OWNERS
ASSOCIATION**

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FOREST OWNER

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NIAGARA FRONTIER CHAPTER WOODSWALK



Some of the NFC members gathered for a picture prior to beginning the woodswalk with Rita Hammond, left, who is also the new chairperson.

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GUEST EDITORIAL: By New Jersey WOODLANDS Editor— DICK WEST
SIERRA CLUB OPPOSES LOGGING ON PUBLIC LANDS

On April 23, 1996 the Sierra Club announced that based on a membership referendum, the official policy would be to oppose "all commercial logging on the publicly owned lands in the United States." This is a radical departure from the very successful and long established policy of multiple use in the management of our National Forests. It comes as a shock and disappointment to many in the forest community. But close observation of the actions and pronouncements of the Sierra Club in the past years have foretold their recent position.

They are hard-line preservationists who will not compromise.

The Sierra Club has fought the Forest Service's timber sale program in the various National Forests by all means at their disposal including administrative appeals, protracted litigation (which cost the taxpayers), media releases and misleading, incomplete and false information to their members and the public. This was extended even visually as shown in their 1993 fancy pictorial book "CLEARCUT: The tragedy of Industrial Forestry", in which a number of their photographs of so-labelled clearcuts were later revealed as entirely false. [See Closer Look: An on-the-ground Investigation of the Sierra Club's Book, Clearcut. For a copy phone 1-800-878-8878.]

In regard to the Sierra Club's role, I wonder how many members actually voted; and further, what information were they given by the Club's publication. Were they told that:

1. ...the National Forests were established in 1897 for the express purpose of the production of timber and protection of the supply for the people of the United States, and authorized the sale of timber at its market value?

2. ...25% of the gross receipts from the sale of timber is returned to the states and counties for the support of schools and roads? Since 1908, this law has resulted in millions of dollars to the local communities in which the National Forests are located. If

a ban on commercial logging were imposed, the taxpayers in these mostly rural communities would have to make up the deficit, and this would be a financial burden.

3. ...the Multiple Use Act of 1960 directs the Forest Service to manage the National Forests for multiple uses, specifically, timber, outdoor recreation, range, watershed, and wildlife and fish purposes? In response to the Sierra Club's charge that commercial logging is the single dominant use, it should be noted that only 26% of the 191 million acres of National Forest System are commercial forest lands suitable and available for harvest. Hardly a single dominant use.

4. ...the National Forest Management Act of 1976 provided policy direction for forest management? It endorsed the concept of professional flexibility and judgement in the choice and application of silvicultural techniques instead of rigid legislative prescriptions. This enlightened legislation has been upheld by the courts in landmark decisions. Now the Sierra Club would skirt the law by simply banning all commercial logging.

Does the Sierra Club recognize the devastating effect no timber harvesting would have on the thousands of forest and mill workers in the forest products industry, and on the economy of their towns? Not to mention the tremendous loss of revenues to the national treasury and counties and communities within the National Forests. Do they recognize that wood is used by **everyone** living in the United States, and that it is one of our most useful and versatile raw materials, and wood is the product of a renewable resource? In spite of overwhelming evidence to the contrary, the Sierra Club does not acknowledge the benefits of sound forest management to forest health, wildlife habitat, biodiversity and other values taught at 47 colleges and universities throughout the United States.

It seems obvious that the administrative and editorial staff of the Sierra Club is aggressively anti-forestry. They are hard-line preservationists who will not compromise. They just don't want any trees cut for any purpose, not even dead or dying trees which, if left untouched [in large numbers], will create a most dangerous fire hazard.

Mr. William H. Banzhaf, Executive Vice President of the Society of American For-

esters, indicated that the recent action of the Sierra Club "clearly places them outside the mainstream of the environmental movement." In fact, at the recent Seventh American Forest Congress, 91% of the 1,500 participants from all segments of the forestry and environmental communities rejected an identical statement to ban all commercial logging on the public lands of the United States. The Sierra Club's policy proposal flies in the face of years of successful forest management on the National Forests and most certainly of the interests of the American people. It should be forcefully rejected. ▲

Dick West is the Editor of the 12 page quarterly NEW JERSEY WOODLANDS which is published by the New Jersey Forestry Association. The NJFA was established in 1975; current member dues are \$20; and membership totals 925.

This editorial was excerpted from the Summer 1996, Number 74 edition of NEW JERSEY WOODLANDS.

URGENT!!

Care about healthy forests?

It's time to write our U.S. Senators and Congressmen in support of the Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP) for 1997. It only takes a dozen or so of us to make or break this item, believe it or not. The few of us who wrote last year made such an impression, SIP officials were told that had *any* other state expressed such support, SIP would likely have been fully funded in 1996.

Tell them you want SIP, which is tucked into the 1997-98 Interior Bill, restored to the \$20 million level of 1994-95; that the program is useful, important, and a frugal and effective use of funds.

Our representatives don't really need a convincing argument, or statistics, or a lot of passion. **They just need to know we think this matters.** And all that takes is three sentences of our own making, and a 32-cent stamp!

Me, I'd like to see SIP back.

—Eric Allen Malone

ALL ABOUT CHESTNUTS

By Audrey, Bob, and Peter Childs

For several years our family has been planting, harvesting and marketing Asian Chestnuts from lands we own and lands we lease.

We are still having deer problems in the planting on our land. They prune the leader as soon as it appears above the tree shelter. Peter has tried not mowing his 8 acre field and that seems to help reduce damage. Trees planted in a blow down are doing very well.

Next year we are going to try fertilizer (10-10-10) on every other tree to see if it has any effect. If you intend to harvest your nuts for profit, do not plant at the edge of woods; you will only get about half the harvest. Of course, the animals will like it. It has been suggested that larger nuts would be produced, if only larger nuts were planted. This we are doing. The story goes that all the larger nuts are sold for consumption and the

smaller ones are sent to the nurseries. We'll let you know how our experiment turns out.

Marketing the chestnuts does not seem to be a problem. Many of our customers of other products at Farmer's Markets are asking in August, "When will the chestnuts be ready?" They do make comments on how small they are compared to the European chestnuts. Fortunately, the chestnuts we grow are fresh and very sweet. Quality always wins out in the end. We suggest to people they try these nuts as a snack. Where else can you have something that tastes delicious and is good for you (1% fat, 49% carbohydrates and 4% protein!)

So far we have not tried to sell them at supermarkets. We sell out of them at Farmers Markets. When we solve the harvesting problem, we expect to have no problems moving these fresh sweet chestnuts. Local produce is always a favorite at markets.

We have tried U-Pick which would be much better if the leased farm was not 70 miles away. Also we do not sell our products in that area and are not known there.

An ideal situation would be (1) Chestnut trees located near the home. This would eliminate many wildlife problems and local people thinking the trees are wild. (2) Spend four hours a day harvesting. (3) Plant about 4 acres. This would be manageable for a cottage industry and pays the taxes on the forest land.

The most difficult problem we have is the harvesting. Individual trees drop their nuts over a period of several weeks with a peak period when many will fall on one day. For example, Tree A will have many nuts on the ground on October 7th while Tree B will have only a few, and Tree C will have none. October 10th Tree A will have a few, Tree B will have many and Tree C just a few. Also some trees have a propensity to drop the burrs with the nuts enclosed and these have to be dislodged by hand. Leather gloves and knee pads are a necessity. Audrey and Bob prefer to hand collect on their knees at this point. Sometimes the deer approach quite close before they realize we are not herbivores!

Peter uses a rather novel method of harvesting. A generator on the rear of a small John Deere jitney supplies power to a large shop vacuum which sucks up the nuts. The drawback is you have to have a blueberry sorter to separate the grass clippings, twigs, pieces of burr and defective or partially eaten nuts. And it's difficult to hire people for this

kind of stoop labor.

For a larger commercial operation, a mechanical harvester is a must. The orchard we are leasing, while our own trees grow to maturity, was a former pasture. It would be better if the field was more level and smooth (similar to the fairway on a golf course.) You would be able to do a better job of mowing and it would be easier. You could use a York rake to remove grass and also pile nuts at harvest.

In other areas of the country that raise nuts (pecans, we investigated) they cooperatively buy a picker or else one person buys and does the picking on shares. The commercial machines are rather expensive. A small one for about three acres cost approximately \$6,000...A large one for 500 acres cost approximately \$100,000.

Chestnuts keep very well, if they are refrigerated. Properly cooled they will keep two months and still retain their quality. Fortunately, we have a large commercial cooler (6x12 ft.)

Audrey experimented with freezing the nuts. If frozen soon after they fall from the tree they retain their original quality and their solidity. We tried cooking some fresh nuts and some that were frozen for one year—it was difficult to differentiate.

To freeze you simply put them in an airtight bag. Boy! Can't get much simpler than that. At market when we are preparing samples, we cut them in half with pruning shears and steam them in a steamer. At home, we cut them the same way and put them in a microwave dish with a cover and cook for three minutes with 1 teaspoon water. Deelicious!

A recent article in the Journal of the American Chestnut Foundation had some very interesting information. Thomas Jefferson imported European chestnut trees



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(*Castanea sativa*). Japanese trees (*Castanea crenata*) were brought in about 1876. These were available from mail order catalogs as "Japan Giant" as early as 1888. Chinese chestnuts (*Castanea mollissima*) were sent to this country about 1903. American chestnuts (*Castanea dentata*), before the trees were destroyed by the blight-causing fungus (*Cryphonectria parasitica*), were a very important crop for the people of this land. Some of these imported varieties produced nuts much larger than the American variety.

SOME HINTS ON CONSUMPTION

Fresh chestnuts are quite perishable. They must be kept refrigerated or they will dry out and become hard. They will keep for many weeks if refrigerated in plastic bags which have a number of holes to prevent moisture accumulation.



Audrey and Robert Childs' grandchildren, Chelsea & Tom, in an Asian Chestnut tree on the leased orchard.

PEELING CHESTNUTS

Boiling—Split chestnuts, drop into pot of boiling water for 3-5 minutes. Drain and peel off skin and shell with paring knife.

Roasting—Cut a half-inch gash on flat side of chestnut, put in oven proof pan, add one-half teaspoon butter to each cup of chestnuts. Put pan in 400°F oven for 5-8 minutes. Remove and take off shells.

Steaming—Cut chestnuts in half and put in steamer for 10 minutes. Cool, remove shell, and enjoy!

Microwaving—Cut chestnuts in half, put about 10 nuts in a microwave dish for 2 minutes (experiment.) When done skins and shells will easily separate from nuts.

Chestnuts on an open fire!—Cut a small gash on each chestnut. Place them in a long-handled wire basket or popcorn popper and hold just above the flames. Shake occasionally. It will take about 15 minutes before they are done. When shells begin to brown on the outside, they should be roasted enough. Put on a plate and eat this wonderful treat!

NUTRITIONAL DATA (1 Cup Shelled)

Calories	310	Protein	4.2%
Fat	1.1%	Carbohydrates	49.1%
Water	44%	Fiber	2.0%

B1	.35mg	Sodium	10mg
B2	.35mg	Phosphorus	141mg
B5	.77mg	Potassium	726mg
B6	.53mg	Calcium	43mg
B12	0.0mg	Iron	3mg
Niacin	1.0mg	Magnesium	66mg
C	9.6mg	Copper	.67mg
E	.80mg	Manganese	5.8mg

Chestnut Stuffing with Wild Rice—

1/2# Bacon, cubed	4 Onion, chopped
1 1/2c. diced Celery	1 1/2# Mushrooms
1/4 tsp. Pepper	1 1/2 tbsp. Sage, dr
1 1/2# Chestnuts	1 1/4 c. Butter, mlted
1/2 c. Brandy	3 cloves Garlic, crshd
1/2 c. Parsley, minced	8 c. Cornbread crmb
1 c. Broth/Water	

Brown bacon and drain. Stir fry onions, garlic, and celery in drippings until golden. Add sliced mushrooms, parsley, sage, and saute, stirring occasionally for 8 to 10 minutes. Mix all remaining ingredients and use for stuffing. Wrap any leftover stuffing in foil, chill for 1 hour. Place in roasting pan and let heat. This makes 3 quarts of stuffing.

Colonial Period Chestnut Stuffing—

2# Chestnuts 2 tbsp. Butter
 cooked, peeled Salt & Pepper
 Add butter to chestnuts and mash well. Blend in salt and pepper. Bake your turkey or chicken. Make your gravy and add the chestnut mixture to it. Spoon over your dressing and enjoy... ▲

Audrey and Bob Childs, Master Forest Owners & Master Gardeners with their son Peter (NYFO J/F '94, *How to Succeed at Succession*." By Betty Densmore) operate Childs' Blueberry Farm in Humphrey. They are Tree Farmers and members of NYFOA's Allegheny Foothills Chapter. For further articles of the American Chestnut and related see NYFO S/O '93; M/A '94; S/O '96. Also, NYFO N/D '96.

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CAN YOU EAT CHRISTMAS TREES?

By John S. Braubitz

About a month ago, a friend of mine who grows Christmas trees made the statement, "I hope we don't have to eat too many Christmas trees this season." He paused, chuckled a little, and in jest said, "John, do you think we really could eat some of those trees, if we really had to?" I answered, "You probably could."

Some of the Indian tribes in the Adirondacks consumed bark patties of mashed cambium. They made some sort of squares from mashed pine cambium that was molded into cakes, baked for about one hour over hot coals, and covered with moss; these were later smoked for a week. The patties could then be carried as trail rations or emergency food sources. The product was very hard and had to be boiled until soft before being consumed. The center of immature green cones was also roasted.

The Algonquian Indians in the High Peaks area consumed so much bark from conifers that the Iroquois Indians named them *Rat-i-ron-daks* meaning "bark eaters." The early settlers mispronounced the word, saying, Adirondack, and despite their error, the land area eventually came to be known by that name.

In addition to using the bark of conifers for food, the Algonquins made a tea from the needles of Christmas trees; the tea was also used by prospectors, trappers, and loggers for refreshment and had a side benefit of Vitamin C.

In World War II, the Russians used this tea during their long winter campaigns when they had nothing else.

In Angier's *Field Guide to Edible Wild Plants*, he said that all members of the Pine family provide an aromatic tea. The bright green new growth tips in the spring provide the best tea, but older green needles can also be used. He recommends that you just place some needles in a pot of boiling water and steep until the brew is strong enough. To increase Vitamin C concentration, he suggests that you let the needles soak in water over night.

Now, if you are from the Western United States or Mexico, you could collect piñon nuts from those conifers. They are especially good when roasted in the oven for five minutes at 360°F.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has found that a 100 gram portion of piñon nuts contains 635 calories, 13 grams of protein, 60.5 grams of fat, 20.5 grams of carbohydrates, 604 milligrams of phosphorus, 5.2

milligrams of iron, 1.28 milligrams of Thiamine, 0.25 milligrams of Riboflavin, and 4.5 milligrams of Niacin.

There is no doubt that Christmas tree-types have been consumed in the past and, in some rare cases, are even being consumed today. But, it's hard for me to believe, that those Christmas trees were the preferred food of the Algonquian Indians. If they had a choice, they probably would have sooner dined on brook trout or venison.

So the answer is: It might be possible to eat your Christmas trees but not preferable. We had better get out the mulcher instead of the cook pot. ▲

John Braubitz is a Professor in the Science Department of Cayuga County Community College.

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Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation Department and mulcher with trees - 1995.

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NED WORKSHOP



The group gathers for a briefing at Peter Levatich's property.

By Art Harris

I attended an interesting workshop at Cornell University this past July, one that promised to join two of my chief interests in life: trees and computers. This workshop was to evaluate a computer-based planning tool for forest owners and foresters. The **Northeast Decision Model (NED)** is a computerized system that will provide foresters, land owners, and the public with recommendations that integrate the multiple values of forests in the Northeast.

The program is an undertaking of the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station of the USDA Forest Service, located in Burlington, VT. Some 20+ of your fellow Master Forest Owners (MFOs) and Pennsylvania VIPs gathered at Cornell to give one of the NED modules a trial run. We were introduced to the Forest Stewardship Planning Guide (FSPG) from the ground up. The workshop included some basic computer training Friday morning to get everyone able to use "Windows" applications on personal computers.

After lunch, we used the computer planning guide to analyze our own woodlots. Briefly, the guide poses questions to the user, the user answers them, and the program makes recommendations on managing the forest to achieve specific goals. The guide covers 5 categories of concern: ecological, visual/scenic qualities, water quality, wildlife and wood production.

The final report from FSPG captures the forest owner's major concerns and goals for the forest land with clear and concise tables and charts. FSPG would be of use in preparing a report for a forest owner, after a good woodswalk and interview. The pro-

gram contains a lot of informative text that discusses the consequences of certain goals and conditions.

As is typical of an MFO training weekend, not a moment was wasted, so after dinner, it was back to the campus for an evening session with another module in the NED set of computer programs. **NEWild** is a program that addresses wildlife habitat relationships for the New England area. It produces a list of wildlife that might be found in a specified combination of plants, soils, and moisture conditions.

Saturday morning was a real treat, a reward for the hard work on Friday. We started with an all you want breakfast at the Student Union on campus, then out to Brooktondale for a woodswalk with **Peter Lavatich** (MFO '92.) Although the reason for the visit was to gather data for an FSPG session later back at Cornell, I think we were more focused on Peter's accounts and demonstration of his 25 year's stewardship of 125 acres of mixed hardwoods. In a word—wonderful.

After all this, we provided some feedback to the group that is producing NED and all its modules. And we went home with yet another tool to share with our clients as MFO/COVERTS Volunteers and to use in caring for our own woodlands.

For free disks of two modules contact: **Neil Lamson**, USDA Forest Service, PO Box 640, Durham, NH 03824. ▲

Art Harris is a Master Forest Owner and the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER, the Newsletter of the NY Master Forest Owner/COVERTS Program.

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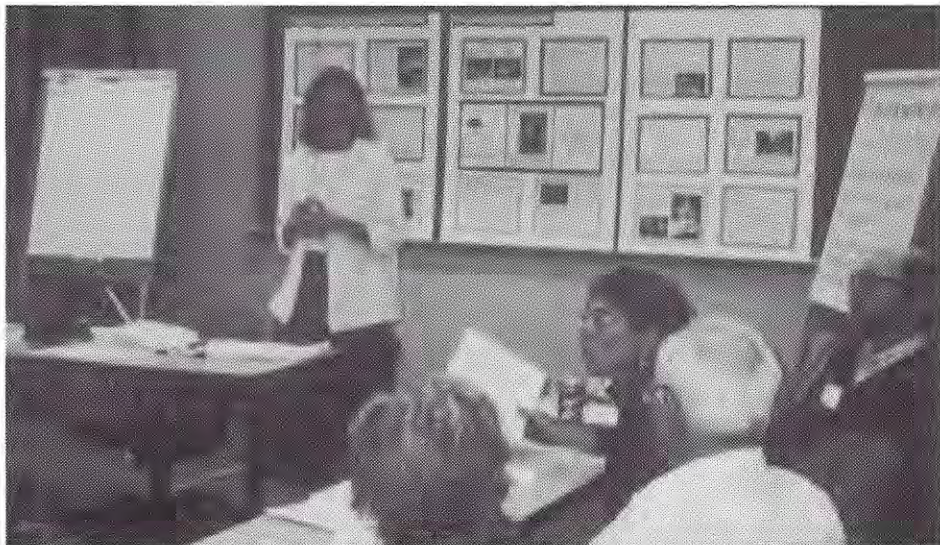
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THE FARM MEETS THE FOREST AT CORNELL

By Louise E. Buck

Combining crops or livestock with trees to create integrated, sustainable production systems is a common goal of New York landowners who attended a workshop of agroforestry practitioners at Cornell University in October.

About 32 people from throughout the state convened for a day to share information about their land management practices, and to consider how agroforestry may be improved and expanded to address pervasive economic vitality and environmental quality issues. Workshop participants have been part of an exploratory study of agroforestry practice and potential in New York that began in 1993. The idea of agroforestry at that time was familiar to only a few people and comparatively little was known about it in this region. Participants in the study and workshop, however, are among the innovators who are helping to pioneer the development of this promising ap-



Agroforestry workshop in session.

proach to land use and resource management, which is beginning to gain recognition by agriculture and natural resources professionals. The activities have been cosponsored by the Cornell Department of Natural Resources and the Cornell Center for the Environment.

The underlying concept in agroforestry is the complementarity that various components of a land use system, and how management can be applied to maximize positive interactions and minimize competition. Agroforestry systems are designed, or they evolve, to produce marketable products as well as some form of environmental protection.

The participants' experience with agroforestry falls into five broad categories of practice: *Forest Farming*, *Intercropping* (including alley-cropping), *Silvo-Pastoralism*, *Riparian Buffers* and *Windbreaks*. These were highlighted and examples given in an overview presentation by the workshop organizers from the Department of Natural Resources. More in-depth cases from each category were then presented by selected participants.

Examples presented of **forest farming** include trout and salmon rearing in forest streams and ponds, apiculture, and woods cultivated ginseng.

Intercropping was shown to be useful in raising valuable hardwood nut trees, or Christmas trees, with annual crops in alleys between the rows of trees. It is used also to convert abandoned crop and pasture land to high value walnut plantations in association with nitrogen-fixing, black locust "nurse" trees.

Examples of **silvo-pastoralism** included fallow deer and dairy sheep farming in rotational grazing schemes that make controlled use of woodlots and orchards.

Riparian buffer planting can produce willow whips for decorative and craft purposes, and generate biomass energy from the cuttings while simultaneously providing streambank stabilization and pollution filtering functions.

Agroforestry windbreaks were shown to be especially useful in protecting vineyards, and providing animal shelter as well as moisture retention in pastures. Many such practices can foster important wildlife benefits.

Participants considered types of educational or policy measures that might help to improve the potential for agroforestry practice to expand. A key issue for many was the perceived overpopulation of deer, inhibiting the establishment of new planting. The idea of forming research partnerships with groups of practitioners who face similar technical issues, together with faculty from various disciplines at Cornell or other universities was discussed as a promising avenue of development. Participants identified the need for small grants to enable this type of activity.

An upcoming activity that should help foster closer relations between agroforestry practitioners and Cornell researchers is the 5th North American Agroforestry Conference that will be held in Ithaca August 3-6, 1997. It is expected that landowners will participate as presenters, and as hosts for agroforestry field tours. For more information contact **Barbara Cliff**, Cornell Department of Natural Resources, 607-255-8191. ▲

Louise Buck is a Senior Extension Associate, in the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University and Coordinator of the Agroforestry Working Group in the Cornell Center for the Environment.

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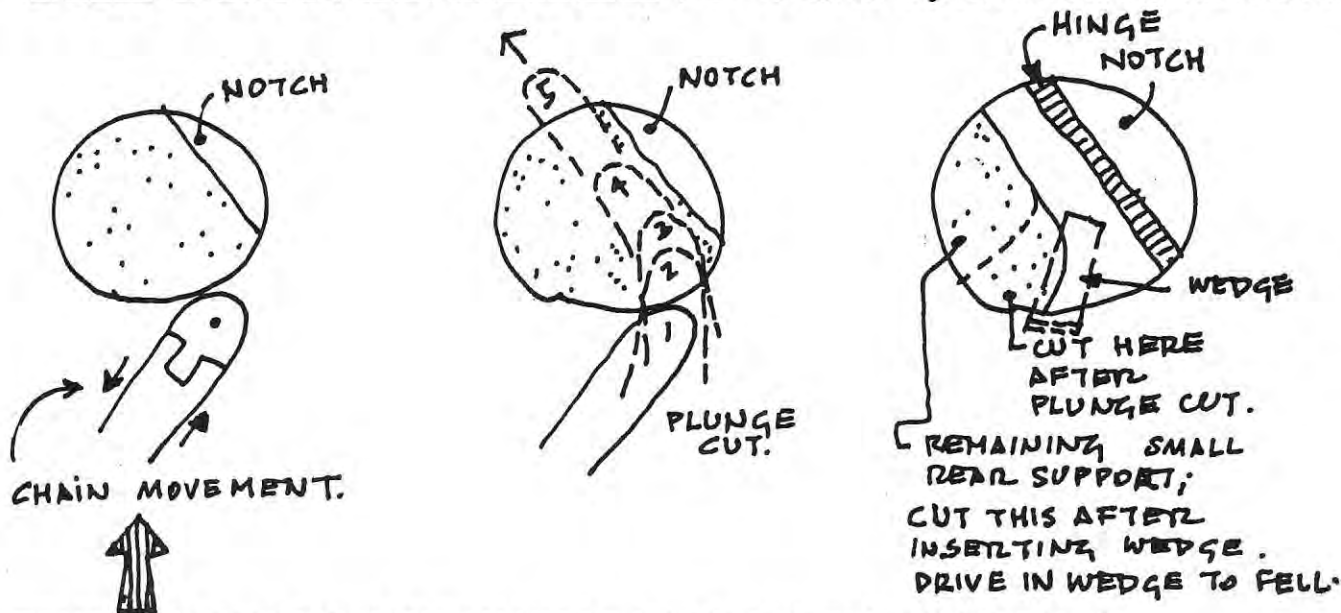
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Penn State Researchers Develop New Bat House Design

By Paul D. Curtis

Bat houses have been used for more than 60 years in Europe, and are increasing in popularity in the United States. Bat Conservation International (Austin, Texas) has promoted bat conservation and provided homeowners with an Official Bat-House Builder's Guide. However, anecdotal reports of bat-house acceptance has indicated marginal use by brown bats (*Myotis spp.*). Roost fidelity and acceptance of boxes appears to vary by species, roost type, and geographic range. A recent research article by Alison Neilson and Brock Fenton (see Wildlife Society Bulletin 22: 8-14, 1994) substantiates these reports for little brown bats. Ninety-nine percent of 547 little brown *Myotis* banded in colonies that were excluded from structures did not join other nearby colonies, nor did they occupy bat houses constructed at the Chautauqua Institution in southwestern New York. During the 3-year study, none of the 43 bat houses of 4 different designs installed at the institute attracted a resident colony of bats. It was speculated that low temperature conditions may have been partially responsible for bats avoiding these boxes, as temperature affects the metabolism of the mother bats and growth rates of their young. Building roosts with active colonies tended to be about 6 degrees C warmer than the bat houses.

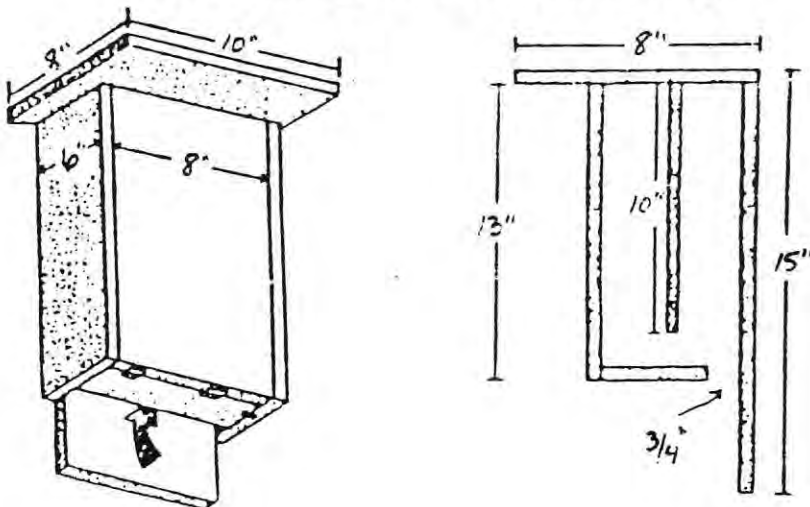
Lisa Williams-Whitmer and Margaret

Brittingham, from Penn State University, have developed a new bat-house designed to overcome temperature-related problems. The top half of the box is contained in black roofing paper to absorb sunlight and increase the internal temperature. These boxes should be oriented between southeast and southwest to receive at least 6 hours of full sun during morning and afternoon. Bat boxes should be attached to a building or pole at least 10 feet above ground, as those secured to trees are not as readily accepted by bats. Following these instructions, bat acceptance has been quite high.

The Pennsylvania box design will house between 150 and 200 bats. The overall size is 30 x 30 inches, and the box is 7 inches deep. Remember to install boxes away from window sills, porches, or decks where droppings falling from the box will cause problems. Penn State Cooperative Extension has prepared a brochure describing bat-box construction and location guidelines. For more information contact: **Margaret Brittingham**, Extension Wildlife Specialist, 302 Forest Resources Lab, Penn State University, University Park, PA 16802 (814-865-2150). ▲

Paul Curtis is a Senior Extension Associate with the Dept. of Natural Resources at Cornell University and the Editor of WILDLIFE DAMAGE NEWS, from which (Vol 6 '95) this article is taken.

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WATCH OUT—Don't Be Liable!

By Dinnie Sloman

Do you have any of the following hazards on your property: holes, ledges, stone walls, wire fences, old sheds, or fallen trees? If you own rural property in the Catskills, chances are that you not only have all the ones I just listed, but quite a few more. Many landowners are petrified of the possibility that someone using their land will be injured and sue them. In these days of law suits and exorbitant jury awards, no one wants to be liable for injuring another. Fortunately, New Yorkers generally are protected from liability.

In New York, a statutory law (General Obligation Law 9-103) protects landowners from liability for injuries to recreational users of their property. The law lists a number of covered recreational activities: hunting, fishing, organized gleaning, canoeing, boating, trapping, hiking, cross-country skiing, tobogganing, sledding, speleological activities, horseback riding, bicycle riding, hang gliding, motorized vehicle operations for recreational purposes, snowmobile operation, cutting or gathering wood for noncommercial purposes and training of dogs. The protection arises *regardless* of whether the property is posted. While posting is essential to winning a trespass case, it does not affect liability under the statute. Likewise, the statutory protection arises regardless of whether the recreational user has permission to be on the property. Thus, under most circumstances, the landowner has no duty to recreational users to keep the premises safe or to warn of a dangerous condition, use, structure or activity (a "trap".)

Two conditions deprive the landowner of the law's coverage: (1) the landowner willfully or maliciously fails to guard or warn of a "trap," or (2) the landowner requires compensation for the recreational use of their property. *Willful and malicious* refers to an intentional act of an unreasonable character performed in disregard of a known or obvious risk so great as to make it highly probable that harm will result. For example, a wire gate that was not visible from a distance adequate for a snowmobile to stop was considered a willful failure to warn for which the landowner was found liable. A "trap" does not include natural features or man-made structures plainly visible and reasonably avoidable.

Compensation includes fees. Rent from hunting leases probably constitutes compensation, but no cases have arisen where a property owner was successfully sued by a hunting lessee. At least one case has found that the law did not cover a recreational club that charged an initiation fee and membership dues. In addition, the law does not cover accidents occurring on portions of the property not suitable for recreation, such as gravel pits, even though most of the property is suitable.

Thus, the statute does not cover non-recreational uses, willful or malicious "traps," and compensated uses. When the statute does not apply, landowner liability is determined by case law. In New York, the famous 1976 case of *Basso v. Miller* set the standard. It states that the duty of care owed by a landowner depends on the foreseeability of the risk of injury. Several factors contribute to foreseeability: who owns the land, the injured person's age, whether the injured person paid for using the property, the location of the property in relation to populated areas, and what measures the defendant would have to take to find and prevent the "trap." Applying these factors, the highest duty is owed to children paying to use the property where the landowner could have taken easy, inexpensive measures to shield a known danger. On the other hand, the least duty is owed to unknown, adult trespassers where the landowner could not easily know of or protect against the danger. Duty of care, therefore, is determined on a sliding scale depending on the factual circumstances surrounding a particular danger. To limit exposure, a landowner should determine who uses the property (even trespassers) and how. If the use is not covered by statute, then either keep the people out or inspect the property to shield all "traps" when reasonable. In addition, the landowner should purchase adequate insurance under the circumstances.

In conclusion, staying within the bounds of the statute offers you the greatest protection. First, try to limit uses to the activities listed. Second, inspect your property to ensure that you have not created any willful and malicious "traps." Third, keep people out of your non-recreational areas. Fourth, do not charge a fee.

Of course, seek professional legal advice if you have any questions concerning your

particular situation. ▲

Dinnie Sloman is the Executive Director of the Catskill Forest Association and both a graduate forester and lawyer. This article was reprinted from CFA NEWS (Vol. 12, No.4), the Newsletter of the Catskill Forest Association.

EDUCATOR AWARD

Donna Rogler, Director of Education for the Catskill Forest Association and Editor of CFA NEWS, was recognized as the Outstanding Environmental Educator for 1996 by the NYS Region 3 Forest Practice Board. The Region 3 Forest Practice Board is made up of individuals with an interest in the forest resource of the seven counties in the area: Sullivan, Ulster, Dutchess, Putnam, Rockland, Orange, and Westchester. The award is sponsored each year to honor individuals who have exhibited outstanding accomplishments in the Public Education field.

During 1996, Donna has organized woodwalks and workshops on a wide range of environmental issues. Topics have included timber harvesting, timber theft, New York's Stewardship Incentive Program, the Forest Tax Law (480A), conservation easements, and forest management. A Forestry Cooperation Forum brought together a panel to discuss area issues. Her presence at the Earth Day programs at Belleayre Mountain and the Bennett School in Oneonta, the Ulster County and Greene County Environmental Awareness Days, the Grahamsville Little World's Fair, and Sullivan County's "Down at the Farm Day" helped to make all of these events successful.

In 1985, Donna was part of the original group that brought Project Learning Tree (PLT) to New York. PLT is a program that encourages teachers to integrate environmental awareness with all areas of education. This past year she ran a PLT Facilitator Workshop in Dutchess County and SUNY New Paltz for education students. One of the past year's crowning jewels was the PLT Watershed Institute where NYC teachers and NYC watershed teachers shared ideas.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Miner

This past September 7-8, 1996, NYFOA held the "Second Chapter Leadership Workshop" in Cortland. This workshop is designed to assist chapter officers and newsletter editors in their continued development of their chapters. It was a time to discuss common problems and share experiences with a focus on building member relations. This year's program was organized by **Betty Densmore, Eileen Van Wie** and **Charlie Mowatt**. Betty chaired the newsletter section on Saturday while Eileen conducted the leadership component on Sunday. The discussions were very lively with a great exchange of fresh ideas for improving our chapters. I would encourage all chapter officers and newsletter editors not to miss the next edition of this workshop. A special thanks to Betty, Eileen and Charlie for another successful NYFOA event.

I was unable to attend the NYFOA Fall Meeting hosted by the Catskill Forest Association; business prevented me from attending this meeting. However, from all accounts

the success prompts me to recognize the special support by CFA members and a special thanks to Donna Rogler who organized this event.

I came across an article several weeks ago that I found very interesting and could be best titled as "Whatever Happened to the Gypsy Moth?" Over the past ten years, the gypsy moth has destroyed 25 million acres of woodlands in 16 Eastern states and the District of Columbia. Efforts to destroy this pest have cost \$69 million since 1992 (Source: U.S. Forest Service.) Well, it seems that the gypsy moth has met its match. It being killed by a microscopic Japanese fungus called *Entomophaga maimaiga*. Scientists aren't sure how the fungus arrived here, but they do know that it is killing the gypsy moth at an accelerated rate. This summer damage from the gypsy moth is at its lowest since 1969!

In 1869 Leopold Trouvelot brought gypsy moth eggs from France to his Medford, Massachusetts Laboratory. He was attempting to cross-breed to produce disease-resis-

tant silkworms. Popular legend has it, that he placed the eggs on a window ledge and the eggs blew away. By 1889, trees in Eastern Massachusetts were being defoliated. In an effort to combat the gypsy moth, scientists introduced the maimaiga fungus at several locations around Boston. In a short time the fungus disappeared and the spread of the gypsy moth continued.

Just as the Forest Service was considering the reintroduction of the maimaiga fungus, it suddenly, after 70 years, reappeared. Scientists find it hard to believe that the fungus remained dormant over all these years and speculate that accidentally it was reintroduced. Noel Scneeberger, an entomologist with the Northeast Area of the U. S. Forest Service states that the fungus' destruction seems to be limited to the gypsy moth. However, he adds, the long-term effect of the fungus is yet to be determined.

I wonder if it will take another 100 years for this story to play out!

A reminder. Directors and Officers have an important Board Meeting, January 27, 1997. ▲

NYFOA CHAPTERS JOIN IN PROGRAM EVENT

By Jill Cornell

The NYS Nursery generously provided a Show & Tell Tour of their facility in Saratoga Springs on Saturday, Nov. 2nd for the **Capital District** and **Southeastern Adirondack Chapters**. A record number of members and the public saw the many stages of the seed separation process, a planting demonstration, one and two year old seedling beds of Japanese and European Larch, streamco willow, balsam, spruce, and fir, and seed orchards for wildlife species.

The nursery which started in 1902, was once the largest nursery in the nation. In 1972, "branch" operations were closed, and the operation was consolidated at the current two facilities in Saratoga Springs. The nursery now provides seedlings for reforestation to state forests and parks, NY school planting projects, and private woodland owners. Seedlings are also sold to Vermont and Maine.

Four of the nine regular employees, Director John Solan, Jim Sessions, Dave Lee and Pat Whalen guided groups of 15 par-

ticipants through the seed extraction process. Seeds of the species for wildlife are put through a masher-separator machine which functions like a seeder-juicer as it separates the mash from the seeds. The process for conifer seed extraction is more complicated. Norway spruce seeds, which take 1 to 2 years to develop are collected from correctional facilities and private landowners. The ripe, but closed cones are slowly conveyed through a 150°F- kiln to open the cones and release the seeds. A series of tumbler and shakers remove the "wings", debris, and hollow seeds. They are then dried, blended, and ready for storage. The final product, 95% pure seeds, are weighed, labeled, and stored in five gallon glass containers in a refrigerated vault. Open, empty cones are sold to florists for seasonal use (2 bushels @ \$10), and all the chaff is composted.

Director Solan discussed the basic requirements for a good nursery site: 1.) sandy soil, 2.) a stream, and 3.) almost flat topography. A nursery operation is similar to other agricultural productions, except that the harvest

season is in the spring and the planting season in the fall.

In a cooperative venture, the nursery is growing streamco willow for biomass development in conjunction with a research and development project at SUNY, College of Environmental Science and Forestry [See NYFO N/D'96, 6.]

They also produce hardwood seedlings.

All of the wildlife species are grown from seeds from NY sources.

To receive a list of available species, write the NYS Nursery at 431 Route 50 South, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866; 518/587-1120. [See display ad, page 6 this issue]

Thank you, John, Jim, Dave and Pat. ▲

Jill Cornell is a member of the Capital District Chapter and serves NYFOA as our Vice President.

[According to the Nov/Dec Issue of the Adirondack Foothills Chapter Newsletter, their annual nut/seed harvest by members yielded over \$1000 to the Chapter treasury.]

WESTERN FINGER LAKES CHAPTER

Our November general meeting drew approximately 43 people. **Ron Schroeder** from DEC spoke on property rights during hunting season. Ron included information on posting your land, how the DEC party permit system works, and basic rights of the landowner. DEC forester, **Mark Keister** spoke on the devastation of seedlings by deer. Mark highlighted tree species that deer choose for gourmet meals, and those they will choose if nothing else is available to eat. Our hearty thanks to Ron and Mark for sharing their information and time with us.

I would like to thank everyone who has volunteered their time to our chapter this past year. All the DEC people (who have so little time to spare, but always help us), **Mark Keister, Billy Morris, Jim Peak, Jim Pitt and Ron Schroeder.** Our chapter's steering committee members, **Carol Fox, Phil Fox, Dale Schaefer, Jim Minor, Chuck Winship, John McMahon, Jack Hamilton, Walter Schuchardt, Ron Reitz, Dave Bott, Dick Dennison, Harry Dieter, and Ron Freese.** The volunteers who help at meetings, or host a woodswalk on their property. Volunteers who aren't even members of our chapter, such as **Bruce Robinson, and Charlie & Marion Mowatt.** If I left anyone's name out, I apologize. Happy New Year to everyone and THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!

—Eileen Van Wie

NIAGARA FRONTIER CHAPTER

New officers of the Chapter were recently elected. They are **Rita Hammond**, chairperson; **Ed Janulionis**, treasurer; **Bob Preston**, programs; **Elberta Barberi**, membership; **David Colligan**, secretary and **Barbara Tucker**, newsletter.

An interesting woodswalk is planned for this spring at **Fran Harrison's** property in Lockport. We will see the log cabin she built from her own trees. She has one of the largest black walnut trees in the area.

The annual pancake breakfast hosted by **Dave Colligan** at his sugar shanty in the Allegheny foothills is tentative for March 15.

On the October woodswalk on Rita Hammond's property and that of the adjoining neighbor in Holland, members saw two completely different ways of harvesting. Lots of helpful hints on how to pick a logger were shared.

FAMILY FOREST FAIR MOVES

Boards of the Capital District and South-eastern Adirondack Chapters have agreed to hold the Family Forest Fair for 1997 at the **Washington County Fairgrounds** in Greenwich on Saturday, **June 14th.** This fair has been sponsored by the Central New York Chapter and very successful for the last three years.

Our purpose in doing the Fair is to educate the general public, legislators and other woodlot owners about the wonders of New York's forest resources. Not only are they bigger than they were in 1800, but we know more about managing them for timber, wildlife, recreation and protecting New York's air and water quality.

What we want to accomplish is to provide a realistic backdrop of Forest Benefits for ideas like the "Right to Harvest Law" and "Tax Relief for Woodlot Owners."



We hope to provide an opportunity for NYS schools and colleges which have forestry or environmental programs to meet with interested students from local high schools.

Forestry and forest products related vendors, organizations and exhibitors will be offered an opportunity to set up exhibits and do presentations at the Fair (These include groups from the NYS Bluebird Society, the Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, and Spelunckers, to chainsaw sculptors, portable bandsaw dealers and wooden pen producers.)

WE NEED YOUR HELP! The many avenues of publicity, vendor possibilities and organization groups are long lists to us at this point, and we believe that many of you have ideas, special skills and contacts that could aid us in pulling off this big venture. Please contact us and give us your expertise and skills in aid of this project.

Call to volunteer:

Jill Cornell
518/753-4336

Mike Greason
518/943-9230

John Hastings
518/623-3671

Jim Durler
518/747-5958

TIOGA CHAPTER

Forest owners from New York's Southern Tier and Pennsylvania's Northern Tier will gather at the Guthrie Inn **April 4** through **6** for a first-ever Twin Tiers Forest Expo and Conference.

Organized by the Tioga Chapter in cooperation with the Bradford-Sullivan Forestland Owners Association, and *The Farmers Friend* newspaper, the three-day event promises to offer a wide range of forest management ideas, time-and money-saving ideas, personal contacts, and helpful equipment displays and demonstrations.

The conference will begin Friday evening, **April 4th**, with a special seminar aimed at leaders of forest owner associations on both sides of the state border. Officers of landowner associations, Christmas tree grower associations, and maple syrup producer groups will make brief presentations and share winning—and losing—ideas.

"The idea is to help grow our associations by learning what has worked and what has not worked elsewhere," says **Donald Schauffer**, chairman of the Tioga Chapter. "We're looking forward to a great exchange of ideas and experiences."

Besides an on-going trade show filled with equipment, demonstrations, and services of interest to forest owners, Saturday's program will feature "from the horse's mouth" practical presentations by forest owners, Christmas tree growers, maple syrup producers, and forest entrepreneurs—more sharing of ideas that forest owners can take home and put to work.

Seminar programs will be capped Saturday night with a forest owners banquet.

The trade show, exhibits, and equipment demonstrations will continue Sunday until 3 PM.

The Guthrie Inn will be offering special rates for overnight accommodations in connection with the Forest Owners Expo and Conference.

Tickets and information will be available through participating forest-owner associations, from businesses that will be exhibiting, from *The Farmers Friend* newspaper, and by e-mail at Farmforest@aol.com.

Companies and individuals interested in setting up a booth at the Forest Owners Expo and Conference are encouraged to contact **Jack Brown**, advertising manager for *The Farmers Friend*, at 800/253-3662; fax 717/265-4200.

TREE SQUIRRELS

By Philip A. Wellner and Paul D. Curtis

Description of Species and Damage

Five different tree squirrel species are native to New York State, including the fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*), red squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*), eastern gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) and both southern (*Glaucomys volens*) and northern (*G. sabrinus*) flying squirrels. Fox, red, and gray squirrels may cause conflicts with homeowners and agriculturists. Squirrels may damage or remove valuable nuts and fruits from orchard trees; feed on corn, tomatoes, and strawberries from gardens; and sometimes will damage the bark or eat the buds of ornamental trees and shrubs. Squirrels are quite comfortable in suburban landscapes, and may make their homes in the attics, walls, and other accessible spaces in houses and other structures. Though this damage may be more of a nuisance in many cases rather than an economic burden, squirrels are capable of inflicting serious damage to property (i.e., by chewing electrical wiring, insulation, etc.). In many suburban areas, tree squirrels are responsible for the largest proportion of nuisance wildlife complaints.

Range

The range of the eastern gray squirrel, both flying squirrels, and the red squirrel includes all of New York State, except for regions with the highest elevations in the Catskills and central Adirondacks, where there are deep winter snows and a minimal mast crop. Because New York is on the northeastern edge of the fox squirrel's range, this species inhabits primarily Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Allegheny Counties, though individuals may occasionally be found in other Southern Tier counties.

Life History

The life history of the tree squirrel is very similar. Squirrels do not hibernate, though they may remain in their dens for several days at a time when there is heavy snow cover. Gray and red squirrels frequent hardwood and coniferous forest habitats, while fox squirrels are found in more open habitats, such as wooded edges of agricultural fields. Squirrel home ranges average 1.3 acres, and with good habitat, there can be as

many as 3 squirrels per acre (though 1 per acre is much more common). With the exception of flying squirrels, the other species are diurnal. Several raptors (i.e., great-horned owls (*Bubo virginianus*), red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) and smaller carnivores, i.e., bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), occasionally prey upon squirrels. Squirrels are social animals, often feeding together in groups of two or three individuals unless there is strong competition for food. Males will compete with each other for females during breeding season.

Legal Status

Gray and fox squirrels are protected game animals in most states, and they can be hunted in season with a valid small game hunting license. Section 11-0523 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law states that, "whenever black, gray, and fox squirrels are injuring property on farm lands or dwellings, they may be taken at any time and in any manner by the owner or occupants thereof." Red squirrels are unprotected in New York State and may be taken at any time without limit with a small game hunting license. When nuisance squirrels are taken under Section 11-0523, they must be immediately buried or cremated. Section 11-0511 of the Environmental Conservation Law specifies that squirrels cannot be possessed or transported except under license or permit from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Damage Management Methods

Exclusion- Squirrels can be prevented from climbing isolated trees by the installation of a two-foot-wide sheet-metal band on the trunk (fastened with springs to allow for tree growth) at least 4 feet above the ground. They can be prevented from traveling across wires by installing 2-foot lengths of 1- or 2-inch-diameter plastic pipe over the wires, which will rotate when the squirrels cross over these barriers. Squirrels should be excluded from buildings by sealing all openings that could be used as entrances with heavy galvanized metal or concrete. Travel from tree-to-tree and onto roofs can be prevented by pruning or removal of branches. Gaps of at least 10 feet wide should be maintained between tree limbs and houses to pre-

vent squirrels from jumping onto rooftops.

Traps- Trapping is one of the most effective ways to remove problem squirrels. A variety of traps can be used, and the type of trap selected should be matched to situation, considering the risk of capturing non-target species. To eliminate squirrels from a residence, it is best to seal off all entrances except one, and then place a trap at the remaining opening. When squirrels are a problem in fruit or nut orchards, traps can be secured to tree branches in order to avoid capturing non-target species. Effective baits include walnut and pecan meats, sunflower hearts, peanut butter, apple, and orange slices.

Repellents- Naphthalene or para-dichlorobenzene mothballs and flakes are registered in New York State as animal repellents, and may be somewhat effective for repelling squirrels from buildings if used in confined spaces.

However, the New York State Department of Health is concerned that young children may develop hemolytic anemia after exposure to fumes from mothballs. Care should be taken to avoid mothball odors within human-occupied rooms in structures.

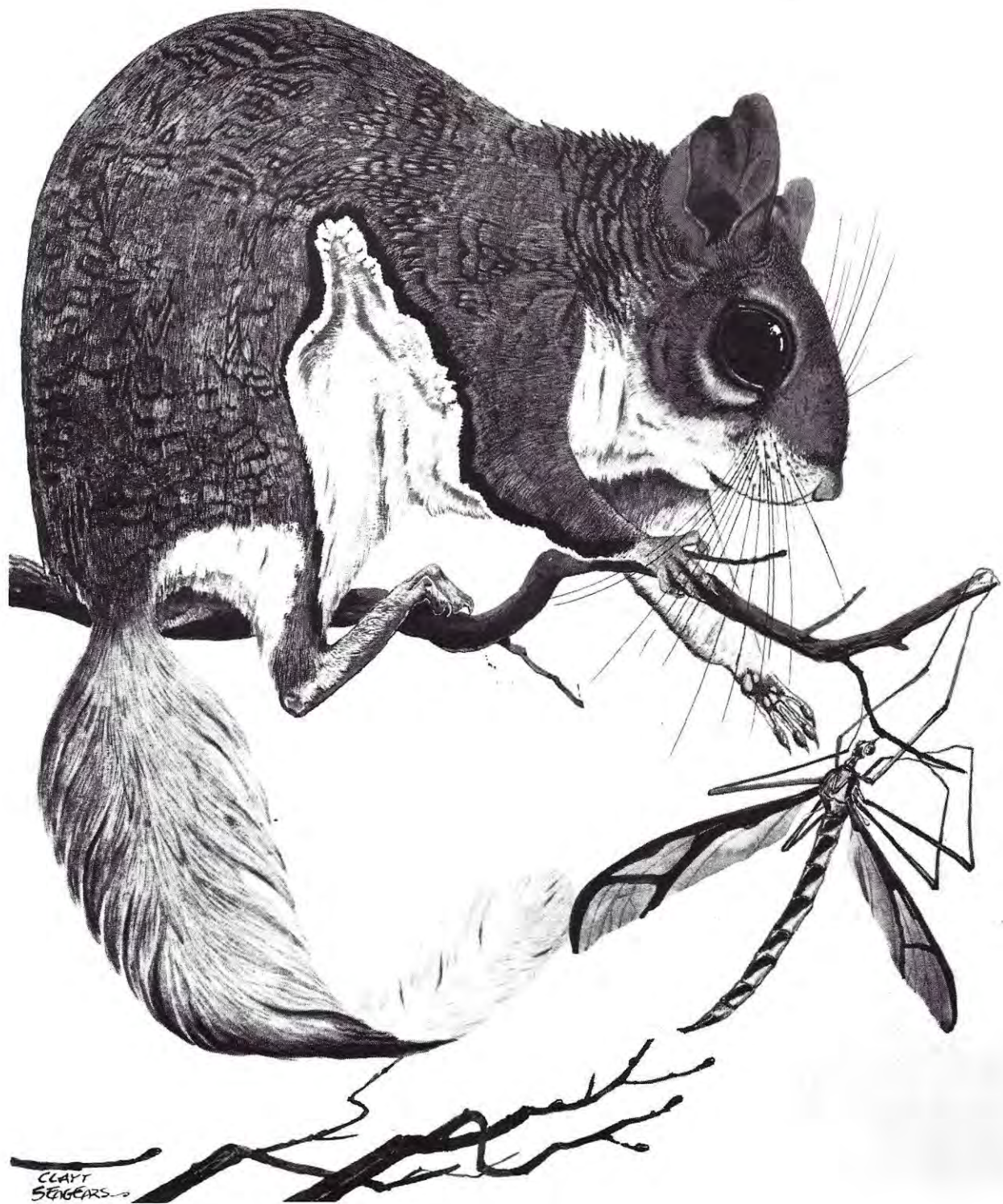
Shooting- Squirrels can be effectively removed from trees with a .22-caliber rifle or a shotgun if safe conditions are available, and local ordinances permit the discharge of firearms. In suburban areas, check with local law enforcement agencies before using firearms.

Toxicants- No toxicants (i.e., rodenticides) are registered for homeowner use to control nuisance squirrels in New York State.

Health Concerns

Squirrel are often infected with internal parasites (i.e., roundworms, tapeworms and hookworms), as well as external parasites (i.e., mites, fleas, and ticks). Cutaneous warbles caused by larval *Cuterebra* flies or fibromes caused by pox virus may be unsightly; however, they have no reported public health implications.

Paul Curtis is a Senior Extension Associate with the Dept. of Natural Resources at Cornell University and the Editor of WILDLIFE DAMAGE NEWS, from which (Vol 6 '95) this article is taken.



FLYING SQUIRREL By Clayt Seagears (N.Y. STATE CONSERVATIONIST Jun/Jul '50.)

1996- THE YEAR OF THE 7TH AMERICAN FOREST CONGRESS

By Henry S. Kernan

The current number of the NY FOREST OWNER comes one year after a gathering in Washington planned to be highly significant to forestry for the number and diversity of the participants, for the subjects covered, for the statements of vision elements, the revised and draft principles that evolved, and for the methods used to elicit and phrase them. In preparation for the **Seventh American Forest Congress** were 51 local roundtables and 43 collaborative meetings. New York had three of the former and one of the latter.

Upon registering, each participant indicated one or more affiliations among a list of twelve. Forestland ownership was not among the twelve. The largest group (593) were those helping to manage ecosystems. The next (584) were members of green advocacy groups. Supporters of forest preservation numbered 455. Likewise among the Congress's 53 Directors were academics, civil servants, employees of industry and employees of associations, but not one identified as a forestland owner!

We Non-industrial Private Forest Owners (NIPFs) number over ten million and we own nearly 60% of the American forest. Surely, we deserved a place on the Board, or at the very least a place among the affiliations.

The Congress had 1519 registered participants and provided three days conducive to discussion and exchange of ideas. In groups of 12-15 we worked out statements of vision elements and of principles. Committees then sorted out and consolidated those statements into 13 vision elements, 21 revised principles and 30 draft principles. The final exercise was for participants to indicate their approval, neutrality or disapproval of the 73 statements. They did so with colored dots; green for approval, yellow for neutrality, and red for disapproval. The Final Report contains the vision elements and

principles, each with a bar colored to indicate the degree of consensus. The Final Report contains no recommendations, no resolutions, and no interpretive comments.

The next step is therefore to extract guidance from whatever the bars convey—guidance for resolving forestry issues at the state and local levels.

Such extractions turn out to be extraordinarily difficult. The statements do not make clear whether they are hopes or expectations. Number 12 of the vision elements reads:

"In the future our forests will be managed on the basis of a stewardship ethic with respect, reverence and humility".

Will they be so managed? Or do we hope that they will be so managed? To what extent are such moral qualities part of managing forests? Do the 271 red ratings advocate disrespect, irreverence and arrogance?

The arbitrators of the Congress presumably gave attention to the statement's meaning and wording. Yet the color patterns of the bars convey a sense of confusion, and even of participants who do not belong in a civilized and rational society. How else should the following earn 215 red dots of disapproval?:

"Conflicts over forest issues will be resolved through non-violent processes."

Or the following receive 362 red dots?:

"Soil productivity is a basic component of forest health."

Do the 'red doters' prefer violence and the denial of the obvious?

Draft Principle No. 39 states,

"Logging on public lands. (No logging on public lands.)"

Here 987 dots were red, 53 were yellow, and 47 were green! Of the 73 statements none received more consensus. Yet, consensus on what? Logging or not logging?

A lively issue at the time was the Salvage Rider which allowed increased logging on National Forests. Revised Principle No. 20 proposed to repeal that Salvage Rider. Al-

though 1039 participants listed themselves as forest preservationists and members of "green" advocacy organizations, repeal received only 252 of the 1076 dots. The color bar of No. 20 is indeed a surprise.

At the Paul Smith's **pre-Congress roundtable** the following received approval: *"Teach forestry students to be less boorish in their appearance, speech and manner."*

Whereas the following caused so much controversy as to remain unresolved:

"Human interventions in forest resources must be made with knowledge of and respect for the ecological structure of those resources, and should never be in a form to compromise the future of the forest unless conversion to another land use is made in the public interest."

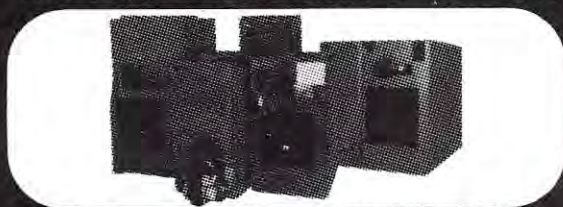
At the Congress even the most innocuous statements (*"National Forests are not national parks"*) received disapproval. Evidently meaningful consensus is hard to come by. Discussion, disagreement, controversy and even violence (at the fringe) are parts of the process. Perhaps that is just as well. Most of us feel strongly about forests and prefer not to leave them in the limbo of indifference and neglect. ▲

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

Additional comment on the Seventh American Forest Congress and the preliminary symposium may be found in the NY FOREST OWNER, M/A, 13,16

To obtain a free copy of the 4-page Summary of Forest Congress Results and other publications, contact: Forest Congress Information Center, 205 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 06511, 203/432-5117; 203/432-3809/5942 Fax; Email: yff@yale.edu; World Wide Web: http://www.cis.yale.edu/forest_congress.

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GOVERNOR KILLS STATE PARK LOGGING

A plan for limited timber harvesting and forest management in New York's Allegany State Park posed no threat to the forest and might well have accelerated the diversity of plant and animal life there, according to two leading forestry experts.

Governor George Pataki abandoned the limited cutting plan this past year after objections from environmentalists.

Modern harvesting practices do not damage the land, but do promote natural regeneration of young trees—Ed White

"A sound forest management plan with regular harvesting can help maintain Allegany State Park forest in a healthy, vigorous state," said Dr. Ed White, dean of research at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF) in Syracuse.

"The social opposition to cutting trees is generally based on a lack of public knowledge concerning modern forest management," White said. He added that the original plan for limited cutting posed no threat to the Allegany Park forest near Buffalo. "Modern harvesting practices do not damage the land, but do promote natural regeneration of young trees," he said. "Trees do not live forever. Not harvesting them does waste a potential renewable resource."

Dr. Donald E. Kotten, who wrote the initial Recreation Resource Management Plan for Allegany State Park in 1982, said the state's decision does not serve the goal of plant and animal diversity. "There is a large number of plant and animal species, not just deer, that thrive in a forest ten to 15 years after a harvesting operation," said Kotten, also a member of the SUNY-ESF faculty.

Kotten noted that the proposed management plan called for no harvesting of trees on 73 to 80 percent of the park land. These trees would have presumably advanced to old growth. The limited logging in the remainder of the park would have promoted the presence of the shade-intolerant plant species and early stage wildlife for those who wish to experience and enjoy the full range of plant and animal diversity possible within the park boundaries, Kotten noted.

"Harvesting mature trees promotes diversity, and diversity is inherently valuable for a forest," he said.

A committee of citizens, recreationists, lo-

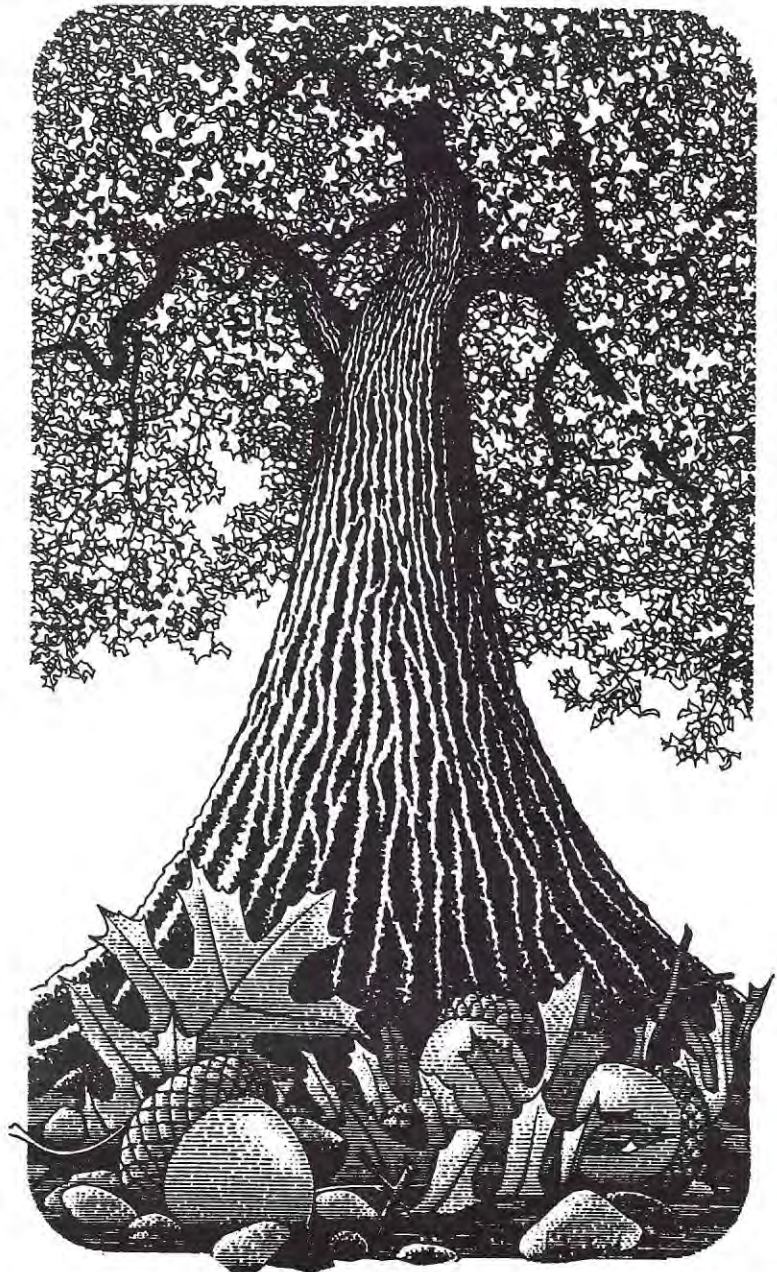
cal officials, academic experts and industry representatives worked for more than a decade to assemble a master plan for Allegany State Park. The committee concluded that efforts should be made to increase diversity in plant and animal species and that limited logging was the best way to achieve this goal. In addition, the forest products industry had proposed that an outdoor education program be established to help park visitors learn more about modern forestry.

Ironically, much of the 66,000 acres that now comprise Allegany State Park was do-

Harvesting mature trees promotes diversity, and diversity is inherently valuable for a forest—Don Kotten

nated and sold to the state by forest products businesses and much of the land had been managed and harvested over the years.

This article was adapted from THE NORTHERN LOGGER AND TIMBER PRODUCER, March 1996.



"I'm guaranteed Social Security, but my acorns...?"

EXPERIMENTAL SILVICULTURE IN SOUTHERN BRAZIL

By Robert Bamber Marshall

The following summary of some scenes more memorable by photos can describe the results of my experimental silviculture in southern Brazil:

i) A bottomland loblolly 30" dbh at 27 years which was one in a row previously providing seed for up to 100,000- seedling annual reforestation. ii) A hillside loblolly 19" dbh at 13 years (See Fig. 1.) iii) A slash pine stand planted 2x2 meters, thinned this second time by horse logging at 18 years, each tree yielding 10 logs 8 foot long to 15 cms at the top for sawmilling; i.e., 80' merchantable and 93' total height. iv) A slash pine 24" dbh at 25 years, with 1' stump, 72' merchantable to cutoff greater than 15 cms and a 19' top, thus 92' total height (See Fig. 2.) v) My record slash pine: 40" dbh in 28 years! vi) A loblolly pine forest before third and final cutting at 22 years, with trees from 12" to 20" averaging 16" dbh and 95' total height, now planted with cherrybark oak and green ash partly because the landowner may use the oak bark in his tannery. vii) A black walnut 65' at 23 years and, viii), a coast redwood, *Sequoia sempervirens*, 70' and 15" dbh at 20 years.

Species that failed shortly after germination, in half-shade and quarter-shade and any reasonable nursery work were: Douglas fir, western hemlock, and grand fir from seedlots from California's redwood region and southwest Oregon. These results show some highlights of subtropical southern Brazil's exceptionally favorable environment for some subtropical USA species.

Southern Brazil's subtropical forest region of fifty million acres or twenty million hectares extends from 23 to 28 degrees south latitude and 49 to 54 degrees west longitude at elevations commonly between 1000 and 4000 feet. This region which includes much of the states of Parana and Santa Catarina soon probably will become one of the world's most productive and valuable forest regions. Not because of native species, how-

Fig. 1 (r) A 19" DBH Loblolly Pine planted 2.5x2.5 meters in 1970 & harvested at a thinning in 1983 with the author indicating annual growth rings.



Fig. 2 (l) A Slash Pine from a plantation planted in 1968 and finally harvested in 1993 at 24" DBH in a release treatment for Sequoias, Black Walnuts, Bald Cypress, & Port Oxford Cedars. Total height 92", 72' merchantable.

ever well managed, but rather because of the introduction of exceptional exotics. Not only are the biological and physical qualities exceptional but right now also the sociological and economic considerations. Brazilians, youthful, multiplying, and hungrily-searching, will not wait for tree-hugging environmentalists to determine the details of best management practices for the costly return of native forests before they plant with prayer whatever exotic seeds someone says will soon bring to their Brazilian life the North American lifestyle. As a cost-conscious forester who was born an instinctive

tree hugger, I remind myself repeatedly that the more cutover brushland and low-production agricultural land is reforested with high value logable sustainable species, the more land economically can be in recreational reserves and reserves illustrating each type of native forest and other ecosystems characteristic of Brazil. Soon, in a second Brazilian miracle welcoming Brazil into first-class world status, North Americans will be surprised to find Brazilians sustaining forests sustaining Brazilians! ▲

This article is derived from an Abstract of the Poster presented at the Oct 28-Nov 1, 1995 National Convention of the Society of American Foresters at Portland, Maine. The abstract is published in the proceedings of that Convention, the theme of which was, "PEOPLE SUSTAINING FORESTS SUSTAINING PEOPLE".

Robert Bamber Marshall a consultant Forester and member of NYFOA's Lower Hudson Chapter, has promised to forward a sequel to the above from Brazil in time for our next issue.

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IMAGE

By Mark Keister

At a recent statewide DEC forestry meeting, the main theme focused on our image. For the past few years our program staff has been cut repeatedly, leaving morale within our Bureau at a new low. A grass roots "outreach" committee of DEC foresters was organized to deal with this issue. I believe it is worthwhile to pass on some ideas this committee has recommended.

Of prime importance is society's need to be aware of the benefits of forest management. Most people do not have a clue as to what a forester's job entails or what programs the DEC's Bureau of Forest Resources provides to the people of New York State. The forestry profession in the U.S. has not done a very good job of providing this information. In a recent trip to Vietnam, one of the poorest countries in the world, I saw a billboard regarding forestry and reforestation, in both Vietnamese and English. When was the last time you saw a forestry billboard in New York? (Smokey, the bear, does not count!) I bet that in a random sample, more people in Vietnam than in New York, could correctly answer the question... "What does a forester do?"

It is no wonder our programs are cut when most of the taxpayers are not aware of what we do. *We have no image rather than a bad image.*

The DEC image committee, has made many worthwhile suggestions such as labeling our vehicles with a "Forestry" sticker, improving our internal communications by producing a staff newsletter, utilizing our state forests more for public education and outreach, and using volunteers to help spread the word. However, the facts are the DEC is unlikely to get any additional resources in the near future to be able to increase our outreach efforts.

This is where NYFOA and the DEC have a tremendous opportunity to benefit each other, through NYFOA volunteers helping with outreach activities. NYFOA will benefit by potentially strengthening DEC programs and we could probably provide better and timely assistance to the membership. Management of New York's forest lands would improve with increased public knowledge of forestry. The DEC's forestry department and NYFOA would gain recognition and public support, once the

public is aware "we" are making a positive, long-term influence on these resources.

How can this be done?

A prime example is our chapter's participation at the recent Pittsford Harvest Festival. There were eight NYFOA volunteers hosting a woodswalk as part of the day's activities. Other examples are: guest speaking at your local school, business or service organizations; preparing and distributing display materials such as flyers, bulletins and posters; making your elected government officials aware of forestry issues and voicing your opinion to them; becoming more involved in NYFOA programs; expanding advertising of NYFOA programs to the general public; and networking with groups of similar interests such as the Finger Lakes Trail Association, Nature Conservancy, Wild Turkey Federation or the American Chestnut Society.

I hope that some of these ideas have sparked your interest to volunteer with outreach activities. By working together we can help create the image, "Trees benefit us, every day!" ▲

This article was reprinted from the Newsletter of the Western Finger Lakes Chapter.

SCIENTISTS PRODUCE "RED WOOD" ASPEN

Genetic engineers at Michigan Technology University have found a way to make aspen trees produce red wood. The discovery, they predict, could lead to important changes in the wood products industry.

And it all came about through serendipity, according to Dr. Vincent Chiang, Director of the MTU School of Forestry and Wood Products' Plant Biotechnology Center. Chiang is renowned for his work in genetically altering lignin in wood pulping species to make the pulping process less costly and more environmentally safe for the wood products industry.

Chiang credits his postdoctoral researcher, Chung-Jui Tsai, with the discovery. "She was working on a project to develop genetic engineering procedures for aspen and in the process introduced two different genes to aspens that were designed to alter their lignin to make it easier for pulping. When she peeled away the bark of our test saplings, she found that one of the genes had manifested itself by causing the saplings to produce red wood instead of the usual white."

While the success of the lignin research could provide significant breakthroughs for the forest products industry worldwide, Chiang notes that it lacks the charisma of colored aspen.

"You don't have to analyze the red aspen," said Chiang, "you just look at it, and there it is."

"Usually you have to wait for years for results," said Tsai, "We just pulled back the bark, and wow! Even a kid can tell."

Chiang said the new aspens are a salmon color, rosier than cedar, less red than redwood—a color he describes as "very distinguished." And it varied from tree to tree, in hue, intensity, and design. "Some of the saplings were mottled, spotted like a Dalmatian, red and white," he said.

And the new color reportedly won't sink back into the gene pool, never to be seen again. MTU researchers have already produced a second group of colored saplings started from cuttings taken from the first samples.

Chiang has talked with four wood products corporations about growing the red as-

pens and "They've all responded vigorously."

Aspen has never been a popular wood for lumber. "It's a kind of boring, white color," said Chiang. "Now it will have other uses." He counts the ways. "Furniture, exposed beams, panelling...I'm looking forward to the day when I won't have to paint the house."

Chiang, Tsai, and their colleague, Dr. Gopi Podila want to gain a fundamental understanding of how the color change takes place in aspens. And they also want to try out their red-wood gene on other species since it affects a genetic pathway that is common to many hardwoods.

The researchers have applied for a license from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to plant the red aspens outside, so they can be studied as they grow to maturity in a natural environment. They are also seeking immediate copyright protection of their process.

This article is reprinted from THE NORTHERN LOGGER AND TIMBER PROCESSOR, Nov '96

SEED BUGS AND LADY BEETLES

—SEARCHING FOR BEDS BUT NOT BREAKFAST!

By Douglas C. Allen

In recent years, the tranquility of New York's fall season has been marred by increasing numbers of unwanted guests that invade homes and other dwellings. Generally this is a relatively quiet time of year as far as insect 'pests' are concerned. Except for the occasional problem with yellow jackets and cluster flies, we anticipate insect activity around the home to subside as temperatures cool and day length shortens. This expectation, and the fact that large numbers of conspicuous insects inside the home are, at best, a nuisance is probably why the increasing abundance of a seed bug and a lady beetle over the past few falls has been so annoying. It is unlikely that these fall invasions will subside in the foreseeable future, so I thought while the intruders were fresh in your mind it might be an opportunity to tell you something about them!

THE CULPRITS

The larger of these two insects, known as the **leaf-footed seed bug** because a segment of each hind leg is expanded and "leaflike", is native to North America (Fig. 1.) Apparently its original distribution was limited to the west coast, but during the mid-1980s and

early 1990s, it was discovered in eastern Canada and the northeastern United States. Since then populations have increased rapidly, and now it is a common member of the insect fauna throughout eastern North

transform into adults, the insect's status changes from one of entomological interest to that of a major household pest. It is in early to mid-fall that adults seek suitable habitat for overwintering. In nature, this is



Fig. 2. Norway spruce cones.

America. The immature stages (nymphs) feed on seeds in developing conifer cones, including Norway spruce (Fig. 2),

Douglas fir and several species of pine. Adults feed on developing flowers, succulent shoots and young cones. In the southeastern and western parts of the country seed bugs are considered important pests in seed orchards. The latter are plantations of trees managed specifically to provide genetically superior seed.

BIOLOGY

After mating in the spring, light brown, cylindrical eggs approximately 0.1" long are deposited in neat compact rows on the needles of the host tree. Following egg hatch the young nymphs move to developing cones and feed on the seed within by inserting their piercing-sucking mouthparts. The insect injects saliva into the seed which partially dissolves the endosperm (the solid portion or center part of the seed) and this liquid is then sucked into the bugs digestive system.

Generally, feeding causes no detectable problems on conifers in urban forests or trees maintained for ornamental purposes. When the brightly colored nymphs complete feeding by late August or early September and

accomplished under loose bark, in stone walls and other substrates where there is a degree of protection from the elements.

Unfortunately, these bugs have "discovered" that dwellings, woodpiles, stacked lumber, and other habitats created by humans also are ideal refuges. Leaf-footed seed bugs are strong fliers and recent studies with a western species indicate that the male produces an odor which is very attractive to both sexes, called an aggregating pheromone (*ferro-mone*.) This ability to fly significant distances and to attract conspecifics accounts, in part, for the large concentrations of bugs that can be found overwintering in certain locations.

Members of this family of bugs possess a scent gland on each side of the body between the bases of the middle and hind legs. These glands emit an unmistakable odor when the insect is disturbed. This odor probably plays a role in discouraging predators.

The second invader that has gained much notoriety in the fall is known as the **Asian Lady Beetle**. As the name suggests, this insect is native to eastern Asia. These voracious predators were purposely introduced into several states for the biological control of aphids and scale insects that infest pecan

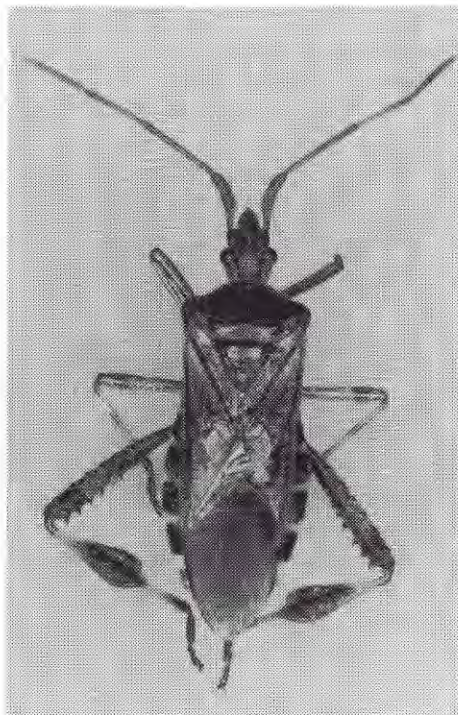


Fig. 1. Adult seed bug. Actual length = 0.7".

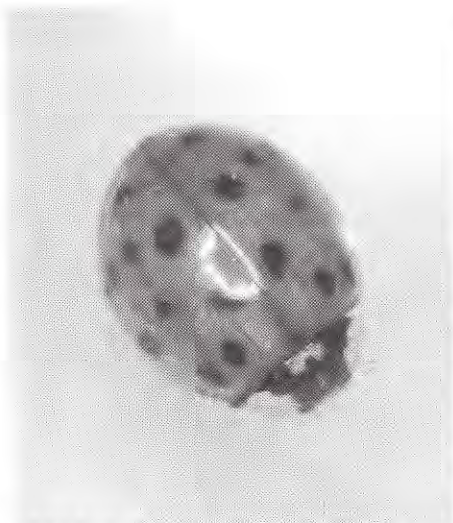


Fig. 3 Adult of the Asian lady beetle. Actual length = 0.25".

and various fruit crops. The oval, brightly colored beetles vary in size and color. They may be as large as 0.25" in diameter (Fig. 3) and vary from a mustard yellow to dark red. Most are clearly marked with varying numbers of conspicuous black spots, but spots can be very indistinct or totally absent.

BIOLOGY

The eggs are deposited in the spring on the undersides of tree leaves. The immature stages, called larvae, are very effective predators of many sucking insects. When larvae have completed development, they transform into the pupal (*pew-pull*) stage, from which the adults eventually emerge. With the arrival of fall, the beetles begin to disperse in search of suitable overwintering sites. It is at this time that large numbers collect on the sides of houses and, if they can gain entrance around windows, doors or other openings, soon become a nuisance in-

side. When disturbed, the beetle exudes a droplet of yellowish liquid which can stain walls and ceilings. As in the case of the odor given off by the seed bug, this liquid probably has an antipredator function.

MANAGEMENT

First of all, it is important for homeowners to realize that neither the bug nor the beetle will do physical damage to buildings or consume food stuffs. They invade structures solely for the purpose of overwintering. When warm weather arrives in spring, both insects will leave as quickly as they arrived.

There are two tactics at your disposal to minimize this nuisance. First, a good defensive measure is to be sure that storm windows and doors fit tightly and attic vents are properly screened. The best offensive weapon is a vacuum cleaner! This approach is especially useful for removing the lady beetles without leaving a yellowish stain. Vacuum window sills and remove insects from walls and ceilings in this manner to save time and avoid handling. Neither insect will bite and both can be handled safely, but a vacuum cleaner is quicker and leaves no residue.

Check firewood before bringing it into the house. Wood piles are favored habitats for the seed bug, and serve as a source of repeated introduction even after cold weather arrives. ▲

This is the 30th in the series of articles contributed by Dr. Allen, Professor of Entomology at SUNY/ESF.

NYFOA has prepared: 1) a book of these articles suitable (digitized @600dpi) for reproduction and distribution by institutions and others (\$25-mailed); 2) photocopies suitable for individual use (\$6-mailed.) Contact the editor.

LETTERS

LOW RISK FELLING

I would like to comment on Peter Levatich's article "Of Dangers, Accidents and Risks", in the Sep/Oct '96 issue. My concern is parts D and E of his article that deals with his felling technique.

This really needs some clarification, perhaps with diagrams. I even had the opportunity to show this article to a professional in the tree service business. He was equally confused.

I would appreciate further information/explanation on this technique.

Thank you.—**James D. DeLellis**, Clarence
See Peter Levatich's response on page 9. This cut requires some practice but is highly recommended by professionals familiar with the results.

FOREST FIRES

"The right amount of fire is as essential as the right amount of rainfall and sunlight"—Sharon Hermann, fire ecologist commenting on an article, THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF FIRE by M. Parfit & R. Gelman in the Sept. '96 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC—*From CAPITAL IDEAS of the Alabama Forest Owners' Association*

BIODIVERSITY

Jack McShane, President of the Catskill Forest Association, in his summer message in CFA NEWS referred to Norman Richards' view of attaining maximum biodiversity as five landowners say with one thousand acres each, contiguous:

- No.1 Practiced a well thought out management plan.
- No.2 Continuously & repeatedly high graded.
- No.3 Did a complete clear cut.
- No.4 Allowed wildfire to rage.
- No.5 Did absolutely nothing.

Jack thought the view an interesting hypothetical.

HUNTING LEASES & LIABILITY

The Alabama Forest Owners Assoc. announced that they have 1000 forest owners and 2000 hunting clubs using their group liability policy to cover hunting activities on 800,000 acres.

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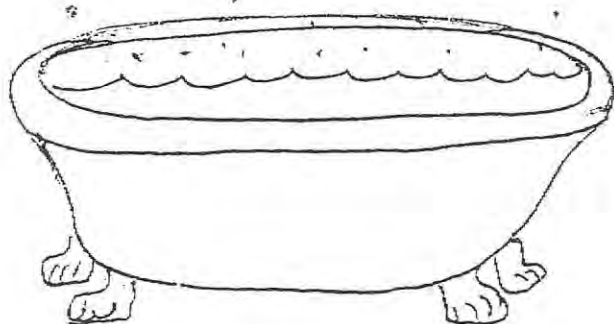
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A BATH IS MORE THAN GETTING CLEAN



+



=



By Jane Sorensen Lord, PHD, OTR, ND
It's here!

The cold, the frost, the wind!
And the blues, the blahs, the chilblains,
colds and flu.

For me, as well as friends and clients I use and recommend one of the world's most ancient therapies. Water—with herbs, spices and perfumes, of course.

For a bath to be the most effective, it should be hassle and worry free. You should plan to relax a while or go to bed afterward.

You need a few items: large nonslip bath mats for inside and outside your tub for safety; a bath tub pillow for comfort and large towels and/or a terry cloth robe to bundle up in afterwards; several cheap, thin, rough washcloths and rubber bands to make herb tea bags/washing pouches.

Of course you need a selection of herbs, spices and scents. You can use herbs and spices (dried) you have gathered or herb teas from the health food store. For scents you can use your favorite perfumes or after shave or splurge on a couple of aroma therapy

agents. You can pick out the smells that either stimulate or calm, depending on your intent for your state of mind.

You will also need 12 oz. cans of evaporated milk, a quart bottle of 100% aloe gel and a couple of pounds of kosher or Epsom salts. The milk or aloe soothes the skin. The salts are supposed to draw out poisons.

Now, there is no one particular recipe or method to follow. You can create an herb formula for whatever is your fancy. The herb and spices have the same effect in a bath as in a tea you drink.

Let's say you have fleeting aches and pains and may be coming down with a cold. You also feel extra tense by changes at work. And you've noticed you are a bit edgy at night.

You decide to use elder flower for your cold and mint to calm you. You pick lavender and rose oils for their tranquilizing aromas.

First you make a bundle of the herbs in the wash cloth and secure it with a rubber band. You shake about ten drops of each the lavender and rose onto the cloth. You can also shake them directly into the bath water. But go easy with smell. Too much can overwhelm a small room like a bath and make you focus on that rather than relaxation.

Now, start the bath. Test and retest the temperature of the water as the tub fills and before you get in. It should be comfortable, not too hot. "They" say no warmer than 110°F.

When the tub is about a quarter full, pour in a cup of the salt (to draw out the cold) and a cup of aloe (to soothe the skin.) You switch between aloe and the milk for your skin. If you have herb oils on hand, you can use 10 drops in your bath in addition to the

above... NEVER use more than that... It can be dangerously slippery.

Now throw in the wash cloth "tea bag." Let the tub continue to fill and make sure the bag soaks ten minutes. Some herbs color the water. I like hibiscus which turns it red. Chamomile tints it yellow and lavender, deep purple!

Now test the temperature one last time and step into the healing water. Slide down so that as much of you is submerged as possible and adjust the bath pillow. Squeeze the wash cloth pouch a few times and swirl it around distributing the herbal essence.

Then, after you've relaxed for ten or fifteen minutes breathing the aromas (in through your nose and out through your mouth) begin to massage yourself in small circles with the pouch. Again "they" say that counter-clock wise circles help you relax while clock wise circles stimulate.

While you are massaging, open up the stop and let the water out. As the water drains away continue your massage, but also imagine that the water is taking your cold and stress with it down the drain.

When the water is out, slowly turn onto your hands and knees and lift yourself from the tub. Go slow, the heat can make you a little light-headed. Cuddle yourself dry then rest or go to bed.

Sleep usually comes easily. You feel like a dream! ▲

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.

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1996 PROFESSIONAL TIMBER HARVESTER AWARD

The NYS Timber Producers Association's President **Diane Platt** presented **Lee H. Wood Sr.** of Cortland with the 1996 Professional Timber Harvester Award, at the Boonville Woodsmen's Field Days. This marks the 16th year for this award by the Association in their efforts to promote the interests and well being of the timber harvester.

This award is given to commend a timber harvester for outstanding practices in areas of: **MANAGEMENT, SAFETY PERFORMANCES, CONDITION AND APPEARANCE OF LOGGING EQUIPMENT** and **WOOD LOT**, and **HISTORY** in the logging industry.

Lee Wood Sr. is a veteran timber harvester of 32 years. He started in the logging business in 1964 with his dad, Cid Wood, at Young's Lumber Co. of Cortland. He worked with his dad and then on his own for 16 years until his children were old enough to get the logging fever. Lee's two daughters, Amy and Susie, have driven the skidders and son, Jason, worked with his father and now has his own skidder. Lee Jr. has helped in father in the woods off and on. Lee's wife, Pat, has been by his side and he wishes everyone to know he owes a "Special Thanks to my wife, Pat, for putting up with me."

Lee enjoys logging and he would advise anyone going into the business to "have a good attitude toward people and do good work and it will pay off."

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*Happy
New Year*



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NYFOA SPECIALS

The following promotional items especially designed for NYFOA may be obtained from Deborah Gill, Administrative Secretary; PO Box 180, Fairport, NY 14450; (716) 377-0391 or directly from and with support for your local chapter:

Shoulder Patches	\$2.00	50% Cotton T-Shirts	\$8.00
Window Decals	0.50	100% Cotton T-Shirts	9.00
Member Sign	2.00	Long-sleeved Shirts	13.00
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WOODLOT CALENDAR

JAN 15: WFL; 7:30 PM; Panel Discussion; Highland Ave.; Rochester; 716/367-2849

JAN 29-31: NYSAF; The Maine Referendum — NY Lessons; Liverpool; 315/348-2208.

FEB: NFC; Evening; 716/874-4074.

MAR 5: WFL; 7:30 PM; TBA; Highland Ave., Rochester.

MAR 15: NFC; Pancake Bkfst.; Dave Colligan.

APR 4-6: TIO; Expo & Conference; Guthrie Inn; 800/253-3662.

APR 26: NYFOA SPRING MEETING; Syracuse.