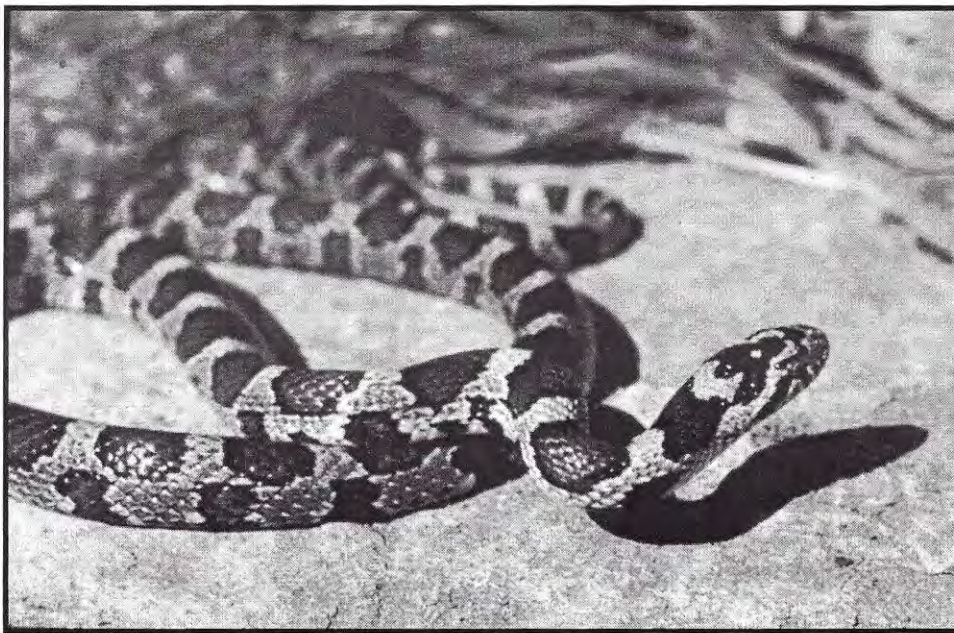


The New York
FOREST OWNER

A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association

July/August 1997



FOREST SNAKES OF NEW YORK

Just What Is It That Forest Owners Care About?

Selecting A Forester

**THE NEW YORK
FOREST OWNERS
ASSOCIATION**

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COVER PHOTO:

*Eastern Milk Snake. Photo by
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FOREST OWNER

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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 July 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.

MASTER FOREST OWNER TRAINING



Coastal Lumber Company's Saw Mill (formerly owned by Cotton-Hanlon, Inc.) at Cayuta, one of the sites visited by Master Forest Owner Volunteers during their training.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jill Cornell

As members of NYFOA we are aware of stewardship and management of our woodlots so that they can be environmentally sound, contributing to clean air and water in our state, provide good recreational uses, habitat for wildlife, as well as the production of wood and paper products that we need for everyday life.

What you may not be aware of is that across the state there are a half a million private woodlot owners who own 85% of NY's forests. Collectively we own 14 million of the 18 million acres of forest land! Of those half million owners, a quarter of a million woodlots are 10 acres or less. Perhaps many of them are good stewards, but there are **many small and large landowners** who do not have written management plans for their woods.

Are you aware that the NY timber industry employs 66,000 New Yorkers and contributes \$4 Billion to NY's gross economic output?

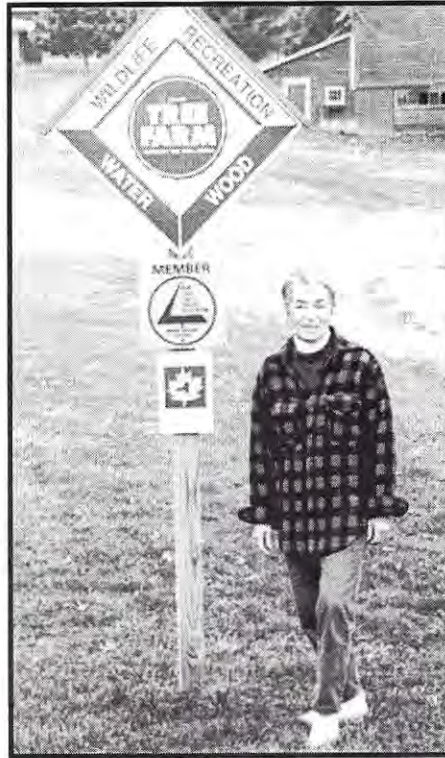
We are not a small group, and we are not economically inconsequential!

We need to reach the rest of those half million woodlot owners, since we represent a very viable group in the state.

To do that we need your help!

When your next renewal notice comes around, it will have a questionnaire enclosed. You may think that some of the questions are "nosey". -All of your responses are totally voluntary, and you are welcome to skip any that you feel infringe on your privacy. The responses will be kept on the database manned by **Debbie Gill**, our Executive Secretary, and will only be available to the NYFOA Board of Directors and Chapter Chairs. The questionnaire has not been finalized yet; it is still in Committee. But it has two focuses: the first is aimed at producing a NYFOA directory of all the members and how to reach them by phone, regular mail, e-mail and faxes; and the second contains questions about you and your special skills and interests, and the knowledge you have about the flora and fauna inhabitants of your property, streams & ponds, insect and/or disease problems, timber sales, and timber thefts, etc. I hope that you will fill it all out, but I respect your right to privacy if any of the questions are uncomfortable for you to answer.

We need to get together in our chapters,



President Jill Cornell

and collectively as a state organization to have our concerns heard in the Capitol, and to be able to share information, interests, ideas, and opinions with each other.

Please share your copy of the FOREST OWNER or your Chapter Newsletter with a friend or neighbor to help to get them interested, and take a friend to the next NYFOA program.

Please call me with comments and/or suggestions: 518 753 4336.

NOTICE

A number of members have advised me that there were instances of marijuana-growing on their property. I am collecting all information regarding such instances for study as to how NYFOA can help its members when help is sought.

To that end I am soliciting details from personal information or accounts in the media which will aid in defining the extent and nature of the problem.

Please assist in this survey by sending details, who, what, when, and where, to me at 703 Johnsonville Road; Johnsonville, NY 12094.

—Jill Cornell

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

By Dick Fox

Judging from comments received, or the lack of them, regarding the last issue, the use of digital generated photos was accepted and will be continued in the future. Considerable savings were obtained by the use of this technology. We currently print with a special sized, computer-directed laser printer on plastic which is then used by the offset press to print the final pages.

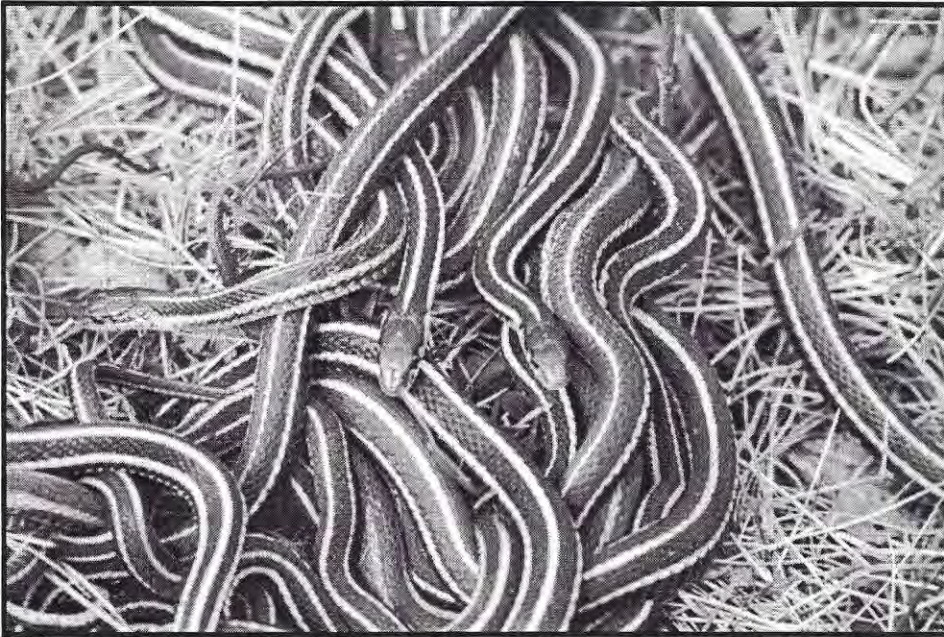
We are now able to receive photos in any form (black & white prints are best): color prints or slides and either digitize them with our scanner or send them out. Some correction in brightness, contrast and intensity may be made with software.

This capability, along with much else, is provided by an investment of some \$6000 by NYFOA in the computer, scanner, printer and removable disk storage and software. I will be happy to provide any member with the details of costs, specifications, and sources of the components. Furthermore, there may be some interest by members or newsletter editors in services provided by these NYFOA-owned tools.

It is my intention to make available in digitized form all the articles, photos and graphics which any author has contributed towards filling the pages of the FOREST OWNER. This has been done for two, already: Doug Allen and Peter Levatich. It is also a task set for your editor to put in digital form all the graphic and textual material found in past FOREST OWNERS. This has been done for text for the past 5 1/2 years and is stored in digital form. The purpose for such archives is to prepare an index for the FOREST OWNER and to facilitate access and subsequent reproduction.

To increase exposure of our message to the general public and potential members it has been suggested that members might take their copies of the magazine no longer to be retained and leave them (with or without the name and address label) at the local barber shop, beauty salon, doctor's, dentist's or lawyer's office, and any other similar place where people are obliged to wait. Should that particular destination be well received, the Board of Directors agreed to fund an increase in printing in order to provide complimentary subscriptions for that purpose. Such an increase will commence with this issue. Please contact Debbie or me, if you have a prospect.

FOREST SNAKES OF NEW YORK



Eastern Garters emerging from their winter den. Photo by Dale Garner.

By Glenn Johnson

The brown snake is common across most terrestrial and marshy habitats all over New York, especially where there is an abundance of structures under which they can hide, such as rocks and logs, and earthworms and slugs, its favorite prey. Rarely reaching 16 inches, this small serpent is often found in farms and towns under the debris left around by people. They are even known in Central Park in New York City! Once called DeKay's snake after the 19th century New York naturalist, brown snakes are easy to recognize by their drab brown color and two rows of small black dots running down their back.

Red-bellied snakes are found over most of New York, yet few people have seen them. They are small (to 14 inches), secretive snakes that spend a great deal of time under rocks and logs. By carefully turning over these objects, you may be fortunate to find one. They come in two color phases: one with a light to dark brown back and another with a light grayish back. Both have a bright red belly and 3 small light blotches on their neck. These serpents produce live young rather than lay eggs. Pregnant females seek the shelter under flat rocks exposed to the sun. As the rock warms up, the heat is conducted to the snake lying underneath. Within limits, the warmer the snake, the shorter will be the pregnancy. Birth typically occurs in late August and

the three inch babies are no bigger around than a toothpick. Red-bellied snakes seem to prefer slugs and snails over all other foods, making them a favorite of farmers who grow leafy crops susceptible to damage by slugs.

The ringneck snake is another small, secretive, and decidedly harmless, serpent found throughout forested parts of the Tug Hill. It is a pretty snake with a blue-gray back, a bright yellow (sometimes red) belly and a yellow ring around its neck. Often several individuals are encountered together under rocks, logs and woodland debris. Salamanders and earthworms form the bulk of its diet. Like the redbelly, it is most often found under rocks and logs in forest clearings.

The green snake is probably the simplest snake to identify in New York. It is bright green in color over its entire length, which may reach 25 inches. This slender serpent inhabits woodland edges and grassy fields and may climb up into low vegetation in search of caterpillars and other soft-bodied insect prey. Its range encompasses the entire state.

Easily the most common and wide spread snake in forests of New York is the eastern garter snake. They are found in all kinds of habitats, from wetlands to uplands to farmlands. Garter snakes are among the most variable ser-

pents in color and striping pattern and are often mistaken for another species. Most show three light stripes running from head to tail, although the central stripe may be lacking. Garter snakes feed upon earthworms, some insects, frogs, nestling birds and small mammals. Like most snakes, they locate their prey primarily through their well-developed sense of smell, using their forked tongue to locate and follow scent trails. Garter snakes simply grab and swallow their prey and do not use constriction.

Occasionally, you may encounter a slender snake at the edge of beaver flows and ponds that at first glance is easily mistaken for a garter snake. If closer examination reveals two bright yellow to cream stripes on the sides bordering a dark stripe and a small spot of yellow in front of the eyes, then it is a ribbon snake. This snake may be locally abundant, but is usually quite uncommon. It feeds primarily on fish, frogs and tadpoles and, like its relative the garter snake, gives birth to living young.

Generally, wherever there is water containing fish, there are northern water snakes to eat them. Many people suspect these snakes are venomous, which they are not, and many are needlessly killed. This may be due to their rather aggressive behavior towards their enemies, including people. They will flatten their bodies, lunge, bite, and spray a foul musk when cornered or otherwise threatened. However they are quite harmless if left alone. Large individuals may reach four feet in length and appear brown to almost black. Fish and frogs are their prey of choice. Just for the record, there are no poisonous water snakes north of southern Virginia.

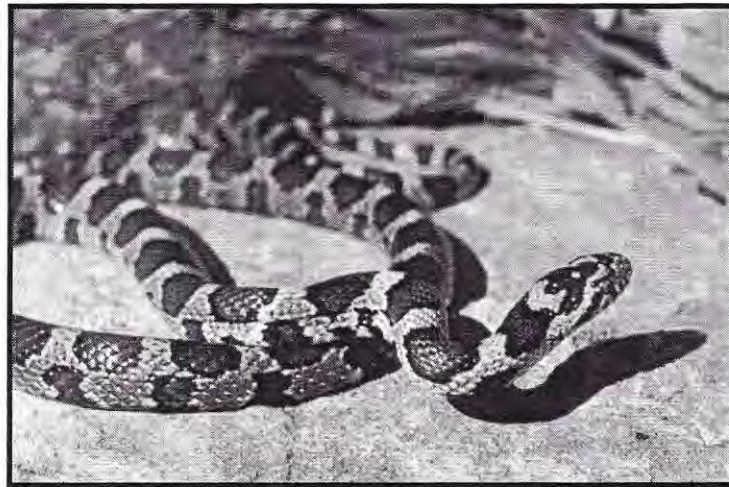
It is doubtful there is a creature in the entire state that has more myths, tall tales and misguided notions about it than the milk snake. They are often called "spotted adders" after the venomous serpents of Europe and Asia. This is probably due to their slightly unnerving habit of vibrating their tails like rattlesnakes when annoyed and because many folks assume any boldly-patterned snake is poisonous. They are quite harmless. In fact, they perform a valuable service to farmers by consuming rodents and other small mammals that otherwise would damage crops. Milk snakes use constriction to overpower their prey. Milk snakes are in the kingsnake group, so-

named because they regularly consume other species of snakes, including rattlesnakes! They appear to have a natural immunity to snake venom. Milk snakes lay eggs and often several females gather to deposit eggs at a communal site. Whether this is due to a lack of quality egg-laying places or to some other factor is not understood. Outside of the breeding season, milk snakes are rarely found together except in their winter retreats.

The largest New York serpent, by far, is the black rat snake. A full grown adult may reach lengths of 8 feet. Like their name suggests, they are largely black, with a bit of white on their chins and bellies, and they eat rodents. They are good climbers and spend a considerable amount of time up in trees. Birds' eggs and nestlings form a major part of their diets. Like nearly any wild animal, they will bite when provoked, but they are quite harmless if left alone.

VENOMOUS SNAKES

There are only three species of poisonous snakes living in the wilds of New York (many other kinds may be found in the homes of private individuals and, occasionally, escapes occur!). These are the copperhead, the timber rattlesnake, and the massasauga (erroneously called "pygmy rattler".) All three are uncommon and the first two may occur in forested areas. The timber rattlesnake (listed as "Threatened" by the New York State Department of Envi-



*Eastern Milk Snake.
Photo by
Todd Wills.*

ronmental Conservation) enjoys the widest range; it is found mainly in the southeastern part of the state, except Long Island and New York City, with scattered populations as far north as Lake George and also along the Southern Tier in western New York. Its populations have been severely reduced, primarily due to bounties and commercial capture for snakeskin products and the pet trade. The massasauga (listed as "Endangered") occurs in only two locations, both large wetlands. One is located northeast of Syracuse and the other is west of Rochester. This species is the subject of a cooperative research program between researchers at SUNY-ESF and NYSDEC. The copperhead is mainly found along the lower Hudson Valley south of Kingston; it is essentially absent from the Catskills and points further west.

The timber rattler and massasauga both possess a rattle at the end of their tails. It is made of a series of hollow scales that produce a distinct buzz when the snake vibrates its tail (a new one is added each time the snake sheds its skin, which may be several times a year). Both rattlers are sort of chunky snakes but the timber rattlesnake can attain lengths of up to six feet while the massasauga barely reaches three feet. A timber rattler's head is much wider than a massasauga's and there are numerous small scales on the crown of its head; the massasauga has nine larger scales on the crown. Copperheads lack the rattle, but will vibrate their tail when annoyed. In dry leaves, this vibration can sound like a rattle; many other species, such as milk and rat snakes, will also perform this behavior. The copperhead can be told by its coppery-red head and by the distinct bands along its body which are widest at the sides and narrowest across the back.

Venomous snakes are best left alone. None of our species are particularly aggressive animals, but they will attempt to bite when handled. If you encounter a snake but can keep your distance, the snake will nearly always refrain from striking. If you should be bitten, obviously the most important first thing is determining if the snake is of a poisonous variety. It is always a good idea to become familiar with the poisonous snakes in your area, including the outdoor places you plan to visit. Bites from nonpoisonous snakes are generally inconsequential, however it is prudent to review when you last had a tetanus immunization. Bites from venomous species are a more serious matter and you should always seek medical assistance. Commercial snakebite kits, which suggest making lacerations in the area of the bite and applying suction and tourniquets are not recommended. Poisonous snakebite is rarely fatal among healthy adults. ▲

Dr. Glenn Johnson has done research on the red-shouldered hawk (with Professor Chambers) and the eastern massasauga rattlesnake (with Professor Leopold) at SUNY-ESF where he currently teaches Herpetology.

CHECKLIST OF SNAKE SPECIES FOUND WITHIN NEW YORK

- Eastern worm snake
- Northern ringneck snake
- Northern black racer
- Eastern hognose snake
- Smooth green snake
- Black rat snake
- Eastern milk snake
- Northern water snake
- Queen snake
- Northern brown snake
- Northern redbelly snake
- Common garter snake—2 NY subspecies
 - Eastern garter snake
 - Maritime garter snake
- Shorthead garter snake
- Ribbon snake—2 subspecies in NY
 - Eastern ribbon snake
 - Northern ribbon snake
- Northern copperhead
- Eastern massasauga
- Timber rattlesnake

ONE...TWO...TREE!

NYC Dept. of Parks and Recreation has completed its tree census, in which 700 volunteers counted almost 500,000 trees on city streets. The number is down from the 977,750 counted in 1936. The Norway Maple is most common in The Bronx, Queens and Staten Island; the Honey Locust in Manhattan; and the London Plane in Brooklyn.

—from *Littorally Speaking*, May 1997.

WHEN DOING YOUR OWN THING ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH

By Carl Wiedemann

I was intrigued by what Norm Richards had to say about the public interest in privately owned forests in the March/April issue of the NY FOREST OWNER. He speculated that there may be little real damage to the public interest by forest owners who do their own thing. Norm also asked, "What is proper or good management of private woodlands and who is to judge this?" The implication is that the public should have no concern with current management practices on private forest land. As a forest landowner and as a former service forester, (that's right I have a bias!) I would like to offer some comments on the subject.

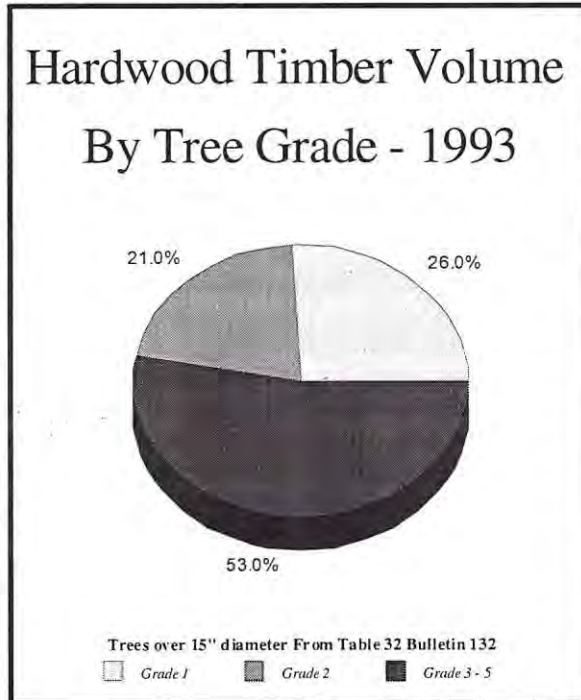
Early in my career, I worked with private forest landowners. Most of my experiences were very positive. In spite of my shortcomings, landowners were usually eager for the information I provided about forest management. I found landowners had many different interests and no two woodlots exactly alike. Consequently, my time was spent talking with people and examining forest land. I tried to provide advice that was consistent with the public interest, forest conditions and landowner objectives.

"Hold it right there buster!" you may be thinking. "Who were you to decide what was good or bad for the public interest - whatever that is?"

In most situations, I didn't have much difficulty with this question. Maybe I'm missing something, but the public interest seems pretty obvious. Forest resources are important to everyone - not just to landowners. The public **does** have an interest in how privately owned forests are managed - just like the public has an interest in air, water, and other natural resources. A fundamental public concern is that forests be managed **sustainably**. In other words, they should be managed so that future generations can continue to benefit from their bounty. That is a "yardstick" that can be used to define "good" and "bad" management.

"But," you ask; "Didn't Norm Richards say that landowners who do their own thing do little damage to the public interest?"

Well, I'll have to disagree on this point. In my experience, "doing your own thing" does not always serve the public interest or even the landowner's interest! I've seen many acres of forest land degraded in a variety of ways from past "management." Specifically, forest landowners do not always manage their properties sustainably. In most cases, I found the reason was simple ignorance.



My opinion is based on my experiences with several hundred landowners. I found that most of the clients I worked with were great people, but not experts in forestry or silviculture. Most had never sold timber. They had no idea that sustainability could be enhanced by exercising control over what trees were to be cut and left in a timber sale. Most were not even members of the New York Forest Owners Association! Yet, they were eager for information. Furthermore, many were altruistic and willing to make investments of some sort to improve their forest. Consequently, I often felt that at least some of the advice I provided was going to be adopted and would contribute to the interests of both society and the landowner.

Some of you are no doubt thinking; "What about consulting foresters? Don't

they provide advice?" Of course they do. But, they also have to eat, and by necessity charge for their services. Sometimes landowners are reluctant to pay, particularly when they are starting from a knowledge base of near zero. These owners will often seek advice, as long as there is no fee or obligation. In these situations, the public forester acts as the catalyst in getting a landowner started in forest management.

Consider the following guiding principles for forest land management from a public interest perspective. They are listed in order of importance:

First Priority - Protect the basic integrity of the site.

Second Priority - Protect rare, threatened, and/or endangered species, water quality and significant habitats.

Third Priority - Provide for reasonable protection from destructive elements (insects, disease, fire, erosion, logging, trespass, etc.)

Fourth Priority - Make sure that if trees are being removed, provision has been made for commercially desirable regeneration.

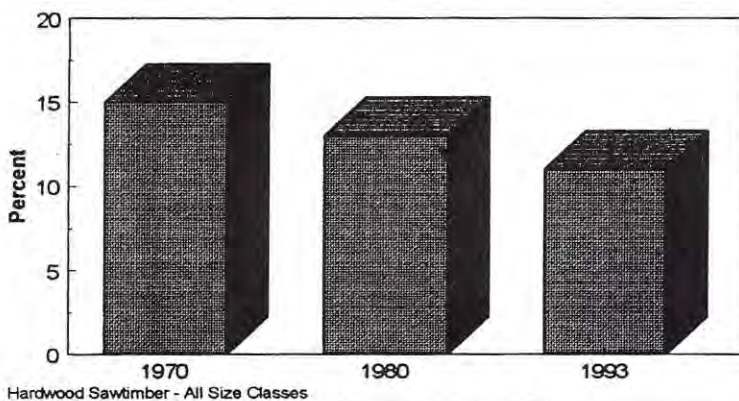
Fifth Priority - Enhance opportunities to grow commercially valuable timber.

Sixth Priority - Landowner objectives. This is where doing your own thing will probably not hurt the public interest.

Some may question my emphasis on growing commercially valuable trees. Many landowners are not particularly interested in timber and neither is most of the public. However, timber is basically compatible with other values, so it can be incorporated in most management without sacrificing other objectives. **Furthermore, of all the values currently recognized, often it's the commercial productivity of New York's forests that is most threatened.**

Most of the forest land in New York is owned by individuals. For most of these landowners, timber is not a primary management objective. Yet, it is rare to find a woodlot that has not been cut in the past. I can't ever remember walking through a privately owned virgin forest, and I have walked through several hundred woodlots

Percentage of Sawtimber Tree Volume in Grade 1



in my short service forestry career. Logging is still the most common management activity, although commercial productivity does not seem to be of much concern for landowners, environmental groups or the public. Maybe that's part of the problem.

The threat to the ability of forests to grow trees with timber value is related to economics. When forest land is cut in this state it is usually not literally clearcut, but is more often "commercially" clearcut. In other words, a logger will remove all of the trees that have any commercial value and leave behind trees that are too small, poorly formed, or of non-commercial species. Most of the logging I saw, after the fact, on private land was of this variety.

Is selective cutting of trees a problem?

It can be, particularly in how it effects the future commercial productivity of forests. This type of cutting tends to remove individual trees of commercial species that have desirable characteristics such as straight form, fast growth rate, and decay resistance. Trees without these characteristics remain behind to grow into the openings where the timber trees were removed and to reseed the site. When forests are cut this way, over and over again on a twenty or thirty year cycle, commercial productivity gradually begins to drop. Although we can continue to grow trees with this type of management, it won't be quality sawtimber.

The 1993 New York Forest survey illustrates the fact that many woodlots are dominated by low value trees. Over half of the hardwood sawtimber trees over 15" in diameter are of inferior lumber quality. And this calculation does not include the trees that are so rough and rotten that they have

no commercial value! I suspect that past cutting practices have contributed to the high proportion of poor quality trees.

Even more revealing is how hardwood tree quality has declined over the decades between 1970 and 1993. The percentage of all hardwood sawtimber trees classified as grade 1 dropped from 15% to 11% in the past 25 years. This is evidence that timber quality on private forest land is declining.

Why should you be concerned?

Many people don't care about timber productivity or even recognize the economic development it supports in New York State. Some feel the forest products industry will simply find other sources for timber.

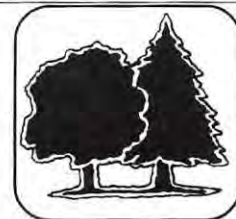
My answer is this - we all use trees. People who love wilderness use trees. People who want to save the rain forest use trees. People who love the beauty of trees use trees. People who don't care about timber use trees. Forest landowners use trees. Regardless of our other differences, we all use trees. As responsible citizens who consume forest products, we all have an interest in protecting the commercial productivity of forest land.

Which trees will we use? More and more of the lumber that the world uses for furniture and flooring comes from tropical rainforests or other sensitive environmental areas. Will increasing demand and diminishing supply drive the price of timber so high that it becomes less affordable and over harvested? Or, can we help supply world markets for timber and pulp without significant harm to other values? The 15 million acres of privately owned forests in New York State have the potential to meet

more of these needs around the world - if they are managed responsibly.

"Think globally, act locally." That was a popular bumper sticker a few years ago which has some application here. In spite of my concern about the declining commercial productivity of New York's forest resource, I'm not an advocate for more regulation. Regulation is an expensive solution for everyone. However, I do feel that modest investments of tax dollars for incentives and education are prudent. We need a strong service forestry program in New York State. Private forest owners can do just fine if they have access to good information and a little encouragement. There is a public interest in forest resources that is not always served by "doing your own thing." ▲

Carl Wiedemann is currently Director of the NYS DEC Bureau of Recreation.



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SELECTING A FORESTER

—*Quick decisions and long-term impacts*

By Peter J. Smallidge and Michael C. Greason

Working with a professional forester can increase the benefits you receive from your forest. Professional foresters are an important step in deliberate forest management. Your forest should be here long after you're gone, and the way your forest is managed will be evident for many years or decades. Even so, over 80% of people who own forest land do not take advantage of professionals who can help them. These professionals are foresters, people trained as foresters at universities to help you reach your ownership objectives. However, selecting a professional forester requires some forethought and a little information. Forestry professionals are an important part of the forest management process. Forests are complex in their function and diverse in what they have to offer. While you can certainly undertake forest management by yourself, you could also represent yourself in court, perform surgery on yourself, or develop and manage your own investment portfolio. Just as we encourage you to seek professional guidance from lawyers, doctors, and financial consultants, we also feel you deserve professional guidance with your forests.

The first step in selecting a forester is knowing that there are several types of foresters, and even some people who aren't foresters yet want you to think otherwise. There are public foresters employed by the Department of Environmental Conservation or Cornell Cooperative Extension who for free can assist landowners. There are private consultant foresters who represent you and your interests for a fee. There are industrial foresters who work for a forest industry (a sawmill for example) and offer services to forest owners to provide timber and other forest products for their employer. Finally, there are people who call themselves foresters who do not possess the education nor experience to be what they claim. Many from this last group function as 'middle-men' and don't offer forest management services. Unfortunately, because the forestry profession is not licensed, nor registered, nor even defined in New York anyone can "claim" to be a forester; make sure you ask for a resume, credentials from a professional society, and references.

Only you can select a forester that meets your needs. You need someone you trust and feel comfortable with. The forester needs to understand your objectives, interests, and limitations. The right forester for you may not be the right one for your neighbor. If you pick the right one, you can enjoy a long-term relationship that should be profitable for both of you and ensure the sustainability of your forest.

Department of Environmental Conservation service foresters are available for limited assistance at no cost to the landowner. They are responsible for several federally funded cost share programs, administering the New York forest tax laws, Sections 480 and 480-a, and serving as a catalyst to encourage landowners to actively manage this state's dynamic, renewable forest resource. These individuals are the best place to start for they are a free source of unbiased information. DEC foresters can evaluate your resource and offer suggestions on how to proceed.

Private consultant foresters can offer in-depth services. They should represent the forest owner as their agent whether selling timber, making a forest tax law application, or completing a variety of forest management practices like planting trees or marking property boundaries. Ethically, the consultant's first responsibility is to the landowner. The relationship is similar to that one would have with their personal lawyer or doctor. Because of this relationship, the consultant is dependent on his or her fee for survival. As with a doctor, cheapest isn't necessarily best. While a private consultant forester charges a fee for services, the investment typically pays much greater returns. Studies have shown forest owners using private consultants receive more net money and have more trees remaining in better condition in their woodlots following a harvest than forest owners who try to conduct a harvest without a forester.

Industrial foresters often offer their services for free, for a commitment of the timber, or perhaps right of first refusal. Forest industry companies that employ industrial foresters typically have their own policies of operation. One company may offer services for image and not require any commitment on the timber. Others may de-

velop 480-a management plans or other in-depth services and expect the right to purchase any timber harvested in return for those services. As with all foresters, make sure you ask plenty of questions before agreeing to a contract.

Any of these types of foresters deserve consideration. However, you should generally avoid the individual who calls himself or herself a forester but can produce no credentials demonstrating they have professional training as a forester. These individuals may have skills in buying and selling your timber, but they may not have the background necessary to protect your long-term goals and forest values.

So what should you do next. A good and inexpensive first step is to contact a DEC forester or a Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Forest Owner (MFO) volunteers. MFOs are not foresters, but are forest owners like you who have been trained by Cornell Cooperative Extension to help you get started with forest management. MFO volunteers will likely recommend you contact a DEC forester for professional guidance, but they can help prepare you to utilize your time optimally when the DEC forester arrives. From that point think through what you want to accomplish with your forests and seek the guidance of the DEC forester in the next step.

Remember your woodlot is a valuable investment that can grow in value while it pleases you today. Care for it well and it will care for you. ▲

Peter Smallidge is Extension Forester at Cornell U.'s Department of Natural Resources and Mike Greason is Acting Chief of the Bureau of Private Land Services.

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One Master Forest Owner Volunteer's Story

By Mike Valla

Edinburg is a gentle countryside town, its pastoral heritage is still seen in the lives of the families that have lived there for generations. Names like Brownell and Edwards and Ostrander are still found there: logging, operating sawmills, and selling lumber, after more than a century since those families first settled in the charming valley along the Sacandaga River of New York's southern Adirondack region.

The people who settled in the Saratoga County hamlet in the 1800's lived a simple existence, tied to the land as farmers, loggers, or employees of the woodenware factories that stood not far off the river banks. Sawmills were established in the town in the early 1800's and later a number of companies manufactured a variety of wood products. In the 1830's one of the more prominent woodenware mills (the Sam and Sherman Batcheller Co.) was established in Batchellerville, a small community in the Town of Edinburg. Another, the DeGolia Co., manufactured washboards.

The prosperity of the town of Edinburg peaked in the mid-1800's, due largely to the woodenware industry in Batchellerville. It soon declined, partly due to a series of fires that occurred between 1876 and 1890 that destroyed the factories. Almost a third of the residents left the town to find other opportunities and employment.

Later events also affected the population of the town. In March, 1930 the gates were closed at the massive earthen dam at Conklingville, creating a reservoir of over 40 square miles that flooded the valley and completely changed the character of the town, affecting the lives of its people forever.

Batchellerville was all but completely lost under the waters of what is now called Great Sacandaga Lake and what little remained of agriculture all but disappeared. It might be argued that Edinburg never really recovered from those two significant events.

Despite the changes that have occurred over the years, the town is still economically dependent on wood products and its connection to the logging industry. On any given morning, the little diner in the town is filled with loggers, sawmill workers and owners. The room is filled with ribald wit and cracker-barrel discussion about timber prices, woodlots and papermills. There is talk about the scarcity of good woodlots with quality timber and the unwillingness of landowners to allow timber harvesting for fear that their woodlands will be forever damaged. Listening to such discussions leads one to understand that the people of the town are dependent upon the single most important resource of the area: the timber covered hillsides.

I knew when I purchased my 50-acre woodlot in Edinburg some 7 years ago that I wanted to use it for recreational purposes such as hunting, hiking and perhaps as a place to build a small cabin. The woodland itself has an interesting history. The land was utilized for farming purposes a century ago but has slowly returned to a northern hardwood forest. Maple, yellow birch and fine stands of cherry trees now tower above what were once oat fields, hay meadows and croplands. It didn't take long for me to decide that the woodland could also be managed for quality timber, such timber as that the loggers in the town were continually talking about and searching for.

I learned much about the logging industry from the local families, but I still needed to learn more about how to properly manage my woodlands for quality timber. That search led me to certified Master Forest Owner (MFO) Volunteers **Erwin and Polly Fullerton**. The Fullertons have managed their woodlands for more than 30 years and they have received State and National awards and as well as accolades for their accomplishments.

I first read about Erwin and Polly and their Tree Farm in a feature newspaper article that appeared some years ago. After reading about how the Fullertons trans-

formed their property into a well-managed woodland property, I decided to visit them to learn how they did it.

Erwin showed me his woodland management plan, and through his association with the MFO/COVERTS Program, provided me with the information and resources that would help me meet the objectives I had in mind for my woodlot. It was through Erwin that I was introduced to NYS DEC Service Forester John Hastings who helped me devise a sound management plan for my woodlands based on my objectives of producing quality timber. He was also instrumental in helping establish my property as a Certified Tree Farm under the American Tree Farm System. Erwin also explained the Stewardship Incentives Program and showed me first-hand how my woodlands could benefit from such management practices. Erwin had access to this information through his training as an MFO Volunteer.

The MFO Program initially provided me with the encouragement that I needed to accomplish my goal of someday harvesting a valuable woodlot that will benefit not only my own children, but perhaps the children of area loggers. Erwin once told me, as I looked upon his beautiful woodlands, "It can't happen over night Mike. What you are seeing are the efforts of over three decades of hard work. But a quality woodland will certainly benefit many in the years to come." Erwin added that he could offer something he didn't have during his 30 years of work on his Tree Farm. It was the vast amount of resource material he gathered during his training as a Master Forest Owner Volunteer. Erwin's assistance has had a profound influence on how I am trying to improve my woodlot for quality timber production.

I also deeply appreciated what the MFO Program could accomplish and thus became a certified MFO Volunteer myself in 1993. Since then I have tried to do what Erwin and Polly Fullerton have done for me, namely, encourage others to manage their woodlands for not only personal satisfaction, but to contribute to the lives of the many people in the community who depend upon quality sawtimber for their own well-being. ▲

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1997 MFO CLASS ANNOUNCED

The New York Master Forest Owner/COVERTS Program is sponsored by the New York Forest Stewardship Program, The Ruffed Grouse Society, the Renewable Resources Extension Program, and Cornell Cooperative Extension. Volunteers are available for a no-obligation visit to your woodlot to listen to your concerns and give suggestions on where and how to acquire needed assistance. Contact your county Cornell Cooperative Extension Office for a list of volunteers in your area. Contact Gary Goff, Program Director, at Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853 (ph. 607/255-2824) if you are interested in becoming a Master Forest Owner volunteer. **This year's training workshop will be held Sept 18-21 at Cornell's Arnot Forest.**



Fig. 1. Tim Piotrowski, Marilyn Dixon, and Roger Penhollow (left to right) practice using tree scale sticks to estimate the merchantable tree height (Hypsometer) as part of the 1996 MFO training at Cornell's Arnot Forest. Photo by Gary Goff.

USING THE BILTMORE STICK

By Paul W. Steck

When doing a timber cruise or just determining the DBH (diameter at breast height) of a few trees measuring the circumference with a tape and then calculating the diameter is a slow cumbersome procedure, especially with large diameter trees. For this reason the Biltmore Stick was developed as it allows the diameter to be measured directly with reasonable accuracy.

If a Biltmore Stick is not available and if it is desired to measure a number of trees as in a timber cruise, a Biltmore Stick can be easily constructed. All that is necessary is to know the relationship between DBH and the Biltmore scale. This is computed by the following formulae:

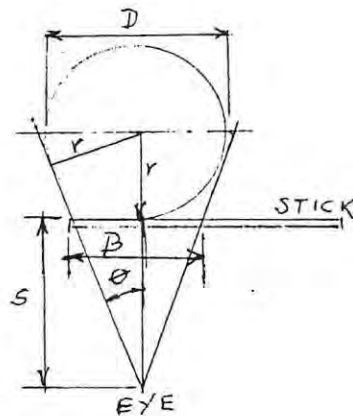
$$\sin\theta = r/r+S \quad B = 2S \tan\theta;$$

where:

B = distance on the stick

S = distance in inches from the eye to the tree

$$D = \text{DBH} = 2r$$



When S = 25 inches, the following table lists the scale factor in inches:

DBH	B	DBH	B
8	6.93	26	18.2
10	8.45	28	19.23
12	9.85	30	20.22
14	11.22	32	21.19
16	12.46	34	22.13
18	13.72	36	23.04
20	14.9	38	23.93
22	16.05	40	24.8
24	17.12		

A straight piece of hardwood 1x1 and 36 inches long marked with the listed scale factors and labeled with the related DBH is all that is required.

If it is desired to have the scale read in one inch increments, it is only necessary to divide the space between adjacent scale factors in half.

To use the stick it is held against the tree while standing a known distance from the tree, usually arms length or 25 inches. With the left edge of the stick sighted along the left edge of the tree and without moving your head, read the scale where the line of sight intersects the right side of the tree. The scale on the stick is calibrated to read DBH (see Fig 1)

If the tree is not round, take a second reading at 90 degrees to the first and average the two for a more representative measurement. Check the accuracy of the tree measurement using the stick versus a tape measurement when learning to use the stick. ▲

Paul Steck is a member of the Niagara Frontier Chapter of NYFOA and resides in Williamsville.

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- What was taken,
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Where to call:

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In DEC Regions 4, 5, 6 and 7 (Albany, Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Clinton, Columbia, Cortland, Delaware, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Montgomery, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego,

Otsego, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, St. Lawrence, Tioga, Tompkins, Warren and Washington counties):

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In DEC Regions 8 and 9 (Allegany, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Chemung, Schuylar, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates counties):

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For uniformed law enforcement officers, call DEC's Division of Law Enforcement or the nearest Regional Office as listed in the blue page of your local telephone directory.

Mid-Atlantic Integrated Assessment Workshop (MAIA)

NYFOA was invited to participate in the MAIA Project and **Jill Cornell** attended the two day workshop in that capacity.

Participants at the MAIA workshop provided suggestions for indicators of forest health and linkages to related stressors and their subsequent effects. The Forest Service will compile current data and relate it to historic data to determine trends and changes. The data will also be analyzed in the light of socioeconomic trends and policies such as land use, resource use, population demographics, forest management, and forest laws institution and policies. The scope and scale of the assessment is enormous. It will provide a baseline of the current status of forest health, reveal new aspects which need to be measured, and correlate indicators to other conditions.

Impetus for the assessment came from a White House Directive to implement the *Santiago Agreement*.

The *Santiago Agreement* signed in 1995 by 12 nations, including the USA, is an agreement on the principles of sustainable forest management; and it established criteria and indicators for measuring those criteria. While recognizing the uniqueness of the separate countries and their differences in natural, social, political and economic status, the agreement spells out 7 criteria to be assessed:

- Forest Health & Vitality
- Biodiversity
- Productivity
- Conservation of Soils
- Conservation - Forest Aquatic Systems
- Key Ecological Processes
- Socioeconomic Assessment

Each of the criteria has indicators which are assessment questions. Forest health includes questions on air pollution, crown dieback, tree damage, exotic or noxious plants and animals, insects and diseases. Diversity covers forest ecosystems, plant and wildlife species and habitats. Productivity focuses on timber and non-timber products. Conservation of soils includes erosion, persistent toxic compounds and chemicals, compaction and diminished organic matter. Conservation of forest aquatic systems relates to streams and lakes. Key ecological processes cover tree mortality, and tree regeneration.

The Catskill and Allegheny regions are included in the MAIA Project, a pilot study for all the regions in the country. ▲

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LETTERS

DOING THEIR OWN THING

It has been my experience that NIPF owners, "doing their own thing" are often operating without knowledge of the management options available to them. Nor do they have much of an idea of the effects that their land management decisions have on their *own* future, much less the effects on "public interests."

For example, let's accept Norm's "no stream sedimentation" (from Norman Richards' article "Fostering Private Forest Richness", NYFO M/A 97) as a reasonable limit to a landowners doing his own thing. I contend that many landowners (NYFOAns excepted) haven't a clue **how** to do that, assuming they have a concern for **why** they should do that. Many landowners defer to the judgement of the timber buyer, who, the landowners rationalize, is far more experienced in these matters. Besides, the timber buyer just gave the landowner a bunch of money to have his way with the woodlot. The landowner is happily skipping to the bank with nary a thought about stream sedimentation, "public interest" or, sadly, his woodlot's future. This often happens near the close of the NIPF's ownership tenure.

Incidentally, who is responsible for assuring the no sedimentation limit?

If doing your own thing is the best way to forest richness, I see no rationale for maintaining forestry schools, other than to help support an expensive faculty.

I know we all can do a better job of fostering forest richness. More importantly, we must help NIPF owners do better. Norm's article in the Sept/Oct, '96 issue of the NY FOREST OWNER, "Pruning Trees for Profit and Pleasure," was a good example of doing better, in spite of the value-loaded concepts in title and text.

—Charles Mowatt, Franklinville

RECREATIONAL LEASES

As a landowner, I'd like to see what are typical fees NYFOA members charge for recreational leases.

Also, how an individual landowner can find insurance agencies or policies to direct potential lessees to?

—Joan Kappel, Capital District Chapter

"Ecology is rather like sex—every new generation likes to think they were the first to discover it."

—Michael Allaby (British ecologist)

THE NYS REFERENDUM

The May/June FOREST OWNER contains several articles on the Maine Referendum, which could restrict silvicultural practices. Unless effort to resist it is made, the referendum option may become law in New York. A movement is afoot to get it accepted in all states where it is described as the "Voter Initiative".

It is the same process which legalized marijuana in California, discriminatory laws in Colorado, and has crippled school systems in several states. This is sometimes accomplished when the winning vote may represent less than 15% of the state's residents.

The Rhode Island Legislature defeated the most recent of repeated efforts to get it passed here. I've studied it thoroughly and have testified at legislative hearings. For more information or help in keeping the "Voter Initiative" out of New York, feel free to call me at 401/254-6035.

—Nicholas Ratti, Jr., Bristol, RI

ANNA KARENINA

Even Tolstoy knew (in the 19th century) that forest owners should know what kind of trees they are selling and how many they have to sell. Konstantin Levin, a "farmer" in Leo Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*, argues unsuccessfully with forest owner Stepan Arkadyevich to count his trees before selling to a logger. "*Not a single merchant ever buys a forest without counting the trees, unless they get it for nothing, as you're doing now. I know your forest. I go hunting there every year, and it's worth a hundred and fifty rubles an acre, cash, while he's giving you sixty by installments. So that in fact you're making him a present of thirty thousand*" See chapters 16 and 17.

—Newsletter, Alabama Forest Owners

WORKMANS COMPENSATION INSURANCE (WCI)

In the May/June '97 issue, the article about selling timber on a scale basis, I get the impression this article is just another advertisement to hire a consulting forester.

Consulting foresters quickly point out—they are *working* for the landowner. Most foresters work on a %-basis, not a lump sum when selling the landowner's timber.

So what is so different: the forester *works* on a %-basis for the landowner; who pays for the WCI?

—Raymond L. Tallman, Richmondville

FIREWOOD SURVEY

A periodic survey of residential fuelwood consumption in New York (based on a sample of 1,925 respondents) conducted under the direction of Professor **Hugh O. Canham** (SUNY-ESF) and **Thomas D. Martin** (NYS DEC) yielded the following estimates: About 890,000 cords of wood were burned as fuel by private residences in the state in 1994-95, less than half of that consumed in 1989-90. The use of wood as home-heating fuel is greatest in northern NY, the Adirondacks and the Southern Tier; and almost half of the wood used was cut by the user. Copies of the survey results are available from Professor Canham at 315/470-6694 or Mr. Martin at 518/457-7431.

—NYS Legis. Newsletter, *Rural Futures*

NYSAF MEETING

I thoroughly enjoyed the May/June issue of the NY FOREST OWNER and especially appreciated the coverage of the New York Society of American Foresters (NYSAF) Winter Meeting held in Liverpool. The article by Ron Pedersen which highlights the stewardship and ethical responsibilities of foresters AND landowners, was outstanding.

As Program Chair, it has been gratifying for me to see a meeting come together after months of work. This meeting was a success for a variety of reasons including the quality of the program, the caliber of the speakers, the attendance (over 160 people) and the diversity of those who attended—NYFOA members played a large part in this. Having nonprofessionals involved in the roundtable discussions on ethics added to the dialogue and made the day more interesting for all. I wanted to thank those NYFOA members for their contributions to the meeting.

I also wanted to invite NYFOA members to the NYSAF Summer Meeting to be held September 3rd thru 5th in Cairo. The meeting will focus on many of the issues which impact NYFOA members, including forester/landowner relationships, low grade markets and forestry cost share programs.

Dinnie Sloman, Executive Director of the Catskill Forest Association and Chair-Elect of the NYSAF, is Program Chair for the meeting and can be contacted for more information at 914/586-3054.

—Michael Virga, Chair NYSAF

THE ANDEAN CONDOR

By Henry S. Kernan

Some objects are better seen at a distance than nearby, the Andean condor being a striking example. The oversized beak is hooked and ugly. The head, flat, featherless, and of a blotchy red and yellow, protrudes at a lowering angle from the dull black plumage. Even with wings outspread nine or more feet from tip to tip, the splayed feet allow no more than awkward flops forward. The world's strongest and highest flyer even has difficulty taking flight without a ledge and a strong updraft.

Yet once in flight, this ungainly bulk has no equal in soaring and gliding, dipping and rising for hours on end over peaks and gorges with scarcely a movement of the wings. Perhaps no more than a hundred or so exist throughout their immense range, from the snow covered heights of Santa Marta on the northern coast of Columbia to Tierra del Fuego's southern most tip, and from the Pacific beaches to four miles above.

Why then, with such powers of flight and adaptation, is the Andean condor barely surviving in the wild? The dozen in the Santa Marta National Park are all that Columbia and Venezuela have between them. Ecuador has thirty-three in the wild and thirty in captivity. The four Andean countries farther south have more, but still few for a range so vast.

Condors evolved along with mastodons and giant sloths in Pleistocene times, some sixty million years ago. The equipment they bring from those long-gone times is not well suited for survival and increase where large mammals are scarce amid much competition for carrion food. Condors cannot kill, carry or digest fresh meat. The female lays but one egg in two years. If the one egg does not hatch or if the nestling is lost, two years pass before another appears. The young need a year's care before flight and four more years before maturity. Condors can survive forty days without food; but having gorged themselves to stupor on putrid meat, they are helpless before wolves, bears and dogs. Their best defences are mobility and habitat in the most remote and inaccessible mountain fastness.

Each condor needs some 800 pounds of carrion meat a year; a pair has consumed five tons before the first chick is out of the nest. Such quantities are only to be had



through the chances of death and the endless, endless, search of telescopic eyesight and photographic memory for detail over boundless landscapes.

The Andean people were primarily agricultural, with no large livestock other than llama. Condors entered into their folklore and folk art as a bringer of good fortune. For centuries after the Spaniards brought their livestock, the condors probably had more to eat because most of their animals were semi-wild and free-ranging. Fewer now graze over the high *paramos* as husbandry has become more careful and confined.

The same trend has caused ranchers to kill condors in the mistaken belief that they are birds of prey. They are not birds of prey; they are strictly scavengers. Nevertheless, condors are trapped, poisoned, shot and snared, hazards against which they have no defence. In 1989 an Ecuadorian rancher laid out bait and shot seven in one day!

Ecuador has responded admirably. A country only slightly larger than New York, now has nearly two million acres in five areas reserved for condors and whatever other wildlife chooses to share the protection and solitude of those vast, volcanic uplands. Ecuador, with many demands upon its resources, is not a wealthy country.

A unit of the Ecuadorian forest agency looks after the reserves and thus actively takes part in the campaign to save the condor. Other participants are the country's ornithological society and several international programs. We Americans are contributing through our Fish and Wildlife Ser-

vice, Peace Corps and the Agency for International Development. The most urgent needs are for more knowledge of the condor's habits and life history, and a decrease in hostility among the rural people capable of harming the condor.

Some observers may judge harshly of such expenditures and attention to this remnant of the Pleistocene, so ungainly at ease, so magnificent when airborne. Condors were never abundant and certainly never will be. They are now symbols we are loathe to lose, symbols of vast, empty uplands, of the power and freedom of flight, and of the endless, solitary search for livelihood. ▲

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

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JUST WHAT IS IT THAT FOREST OWNERS CARE ABOUT?

By Alan Knight

Are New York's forest owners more concerned about marketing opportunities or trespass problems? Government regulation or lack of available time? Pest management or property taxes?

Those forest owners who are involved in the "care and feeding" of strong local chapters of the New York Forest Owners Association may be particularly interested in the answers to these questions.

A small planning committee of the Tioga Chapter pursued answers to these and other related questions in the fall of 1996 in order to plan a Forest Owners Expo and Conference in conjunction with forest owner associations in nearby Pennsylvania. The survey—mailed to 323 NYFOA members in the Tioga, Southern Tier, and Cayuga Chapters—may have been as remarkable for the extraordinarily high rate of response as for the insight gained into the collective mind of forest owners. One hundred nine forest owners responded, a response rate of 34%! Most mailed-out surveys of a commercial and industrial nature are considered great successes if they achieve a response rate of eight percent. What does this amazingly high response rate mean? It's hard to say, precisely. But it sure does not mean a lack of interest in the idea of a two-state Forest Owners Expo and Conference!

The survey was concise and conveniently designed on a fold-over card that could be completed easily by means of multiple choice questions, then dropped postage-paid—into the nearest mailbox.

In addition to commercially-oriented questions pertaining to conference fees, banquet options, and purchasing history at such shows—not of much interest here—we asked two questions that really get at the very purpose of the New York Forest Owners Association: education and information needed to solve problems and enjoy the forest more. Here's what we asked and what we learned. Ten surveys came in after deadline so these responses were tallied from 99 responses.

Question 1: In which of the following woodland activities do you or your family engage on your land?

() Christmas trees; () Maple syrup; () Timber; () Firewood; () Hunting; () Family outings; () Hiking; () Skiing, Snowmobiling, Snowshoeing; () Other, please specify ____.

Respondents were free to select as many

activities as they wished.

Results, in descending order, were:

Firewood—72; Hunting—61; Hiking—53; Timber—52; Family outings—40; Christmas trees—32; Skiing, Snowmobiling, Snowshoeing—32; Other—nature study.

Question 2: What are your two most pressing woodland related problems?

() Marketing; () Pest management; () Property taxes; () Cost of inputs; () Government regulations; () Trespassers; () Too many deer; () Too few deer; () Lack of time to do what needs to be done; () Hired help; () Other, please specify ____

In this case, respondents were asked to choose only two items. Their collective opinion was:

Property taxes—56; Lack of time—49; Too many deer—15; Trespassers—15; Marketing—12; Government regulations—8; Pest management—7; Cost of inputs—4; Hired help—5; Too few deer—2

These figures are essentially percentages, since they are based on 99 total responses.

Critique

This little survey was far from perfect. It was intended to guide the decision to hold or not to hold a conference and to guide the content of the conference should one be held. The content and high response rate of the survey will serve that planning purpose very well.

If we were to do it again, we might add "nature study" or "nature photography" to the activities list or perhaps add something to measure the interest in farm pond use and management, but we can't see much we would add to the problem list. All suggestions are welcome!

Any surprises? There were for us. We were surprised to see hunting rank almost at the top of activities, especially in light of fewer and fewer hunters in our woods in recent years. Not surprising was the low ranking of "management intensive" activities like Christmas trees and maple syrup. Fun clearly outranks money as the theme that binds forest owners together.

It was almost a "no brainer" that property taxes would rank as the thing that forest owners most love to hate. The surprise

was the huge gap that "property taxes" (at 56 percent) and "lack of time" (at 49 percent) enjoyed above the next highest problem: "trespassers" or "too many deer," each at only 15 percent. That's a major difference in ranking. Low ranking topics are almost inconsequentially by comparison.

"Lack of time" may pose the greatest potential for forest owner associations' service and problem-solving. Whether it is helping forest owners hiring consultants and loggers, informing forest owners about qualifying for government subsidies to pay for hired work, or organizing for cooperative work—along the lines of the Catskill Forest Association's thinning and firewood operations—forest owner organizations would be filling a very strong expressed need if they addressed the "lack of time" problem.

If you have any thoughts or comments on this survey or this article, please feel free to e-mail them to me at:

FarmForest@aol.com

Alan Knight, a former editor of the NY FOREST OWNER, is a member of the Tioga Chapter

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AWARDS

By Robert Sand, Chairperson of the Awards Committee; as remarks delivered to the assembly not necessarily in the following order

The presentation of the **HEIBERG MEMORIAL AWARD** is one highlight of today's luncheon program. This is our 31st. time. Our first award recognized **Dean Hardy L. Shirley** at NYFOA's 4th. Annual Meeting held April 30, 1966 in this very room. It is recognition for outstanding contributions in the fields of forestry and conservation in New York State.

A renowned Professor of Silviculture, **Svend O. Heiberg** devoted much of his career here at the College of Forestry. It was Dr. Heiberg who first proposed the establishment of an association of Forest Landowners in New York. He sought the efforts of Dean Hardy L. Shirley and together they initiated the meetings that eventually organized this successful Forest Owners Association. This award is presented in Professor Heiberg's memory.

I greatly appreciate this opportunity to present, on behalf of NYFOA, this **Memorial Award** today. We again honor an exceptional recipient, a forest owner who has practiced good forestry and championed the wise use and stewardship of his holdings. A man who has always felt close to the soil and nature and found both pleasure and beauty in the out-of-doors. He has contributed energetic leadership, that served a host of organizations for over 50 years. Today we honor a man of great character, who has demonstrated outstanding citizenship locally and across our State, by the presentation of this **1997** award to:

VERNER C. HUDSON

Vern was born in Fulton, NY, graduated from Fulton High School and attended Cornell University. In 1941, he and Marjorie Cady were married. The Hudsons have two daughters and four grandchildren. They have been farmers for most of their lives. For many years they ran a retail milk dairy and operated two large dairy farms. Early in the 60's, after a visit by **Ed Karsch**, a DEC Forester, the Hudsons became Forest Practice Act (FPA) cooperators. Thereafter, Vern gave high priority to forest management and for the next 15 years Timber Stand Improvement on 10-15 acres took place. To date, Vern has made **25** timber harvests for a total of over **800 MBF** of logs.

(Trees do grow-and much better when thinning has been accomplished.)

Now let me enumerate the Hudson's involvement with forestry, forest ownership and management as related to a lifetime-partnership involving Vern and Marjorie Hudson and their stewardship of their land:

- 45 year member of the Onondaga County Cooperative Extension;
- NYFOA member since 1965 Served as a Director and on Board Committees;
- Since 1971 has served on Region 7 Forest Practice Board;
- The State FPA Board since 1982 and for 10 years was Treasurer. Serving on the Stewardship and Forest Practice Standards Committees. (Projects: 60,000 wooden nickels, 30,000 place-mats and sign boards for 9 Regions.) State FPA representative to NYS Fish & Wildlife Management Act (FWMA) Board;
- 1979-1990, operated a cross country ski business on their farm & forestland;
- 1984-Charter member and served as a Director of the Empire Forest System;
- 1988 were the **NEW YORK STATE OUTSTANDING TREE FARMER OF THE YEAR**;
- "Gurnee Woods" hosted the Central New York Chapter's **FOREST FAMILY FAIR** in 1994, 1995 & 1996;
- In 1996 was host to 400 members of the Hiawatha BSA Council;
- Vern is also a Master Forest Owner (1992);
- A Mason for 54 yeas, member of the **ELBRIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Charter member since 1966 of the Jordan-Elbridge Lions Club, and Lifetime member of the Elbridge Rod & Gun Club.

This review of a long and exemplifying commitment to the fields of Forestry and Conservation here in New York State is truly distinguished. It has been my personal pleasure to know and call this gentleman my friend. ○

The presentation was made and accepted by Bill Minerd and his wife, Clara who is the daughter of Vern and Marjorie Hudson. The remarks and presentation were repeated at Auburn Memorial Hospital that evening where Marjorie was a patient.

Today, it is my pleasure to present a **NYFOA SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD** to our dedicated desk-top computer publishing **EDITOR** of the **NEW YORK FOREST OWNER**:

RICHARD J. FOX

Dick Fox is a native of Binghamton, NY and a veteran of the Korean Conflict. He received a BA (Chemistry/Sciences) from Harpur College in 1954, followed by graduate work at Columbia Univ., and additional graduate study, teaching & research at Syracuse Univ. followed by two years of research at SUNY/ESF Forestry College.

He has made his home near Moravia since 1963 where he has been active in County Government, Rotary and the Chamber of Commerce.

Joining NYFOA in January 1984, Dick Fox has contributed generously both his time and talents to serve NYFOA in a number of important ways:

—as an elected member of the Board of Directors, serving as the Advertising Manager of the Forest Owner in 1988, the Editorial and Advertising Manager responsibility for the 1990 Directory issue, as Chairman of the Program Committee for the October 1987 Fall Meeting held at Casowasco, and as a member of the Education and Awards committee.

Dick is an active forest owner. In 1991 he became a Master Forest Owner (MFO). And presently represents Cayuga County on the Region 7 FPA Board and is Area Chair for five Counties on the NYS Tree Farm Committee. In January 1992 he was appointed Editor of the New York **FOREST OWNER**. Last year, he published **THE NETHER WORLD OF FORESTRY**, a collection of 31 **FOREST OWNER** articles (29 were authored by SUNY/ESF Professor **Douglas C. Allen**)

Dick Fox is an inquisitive, tenacious, extremely talented, exuberant and energetic member of NYFOA. He is not timid. You know he has done his homework, for he has contributed much to advance this organization. In 1992 he was presented the New York Forest Owners Association **OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD**. His commitment to NYFOA has been **MORE** than a full measure. ○

Today we honor our 1997 recipient of this award. It is the twentieth time that it has been presented as tangible recognition of outstanding service to the New York Forest Owners Association membership. And for me, at long last, the opportunity I've anticipated for a very long time, for it is recognition of faithful, dependable and willing support given graciously, year after year, to NYFOA. It is my pleasure to make this presentation to:

NORMAN A. RICHARDS

This is NYFOA's 35th. year of forest owner service. Our membership has benefited by the allegiance and time of many volunteer energies—a "labor of love" that brings pleasure and satisfaction to each one. Our members are served by many dedicated people who willingly share enthusiasm, management skills and their individual expertise gleaned by experience with others. And we are deeply grateful for their dedication. Thanks to one and all.

Norm grew up on a farm near New Paltz and at age 13 decided he wanted to go into forestry. While a student at the College of Forestry in Syracuse and with the help of his father, he bought an old hill farm in Delaware County, and started Pineholm Tree Farm that he has often written about in the FOREST OWNER. At Syracuse he earned his B.S. degree in forestry, graduating in 1957. This was followed by MS-studies at Cornell University where he focused on soils, social sciences, and Red pine plantations; this was followed by a few years' rural community work in South Carolina. He returned to Syracuse to work at the College of Forestry in 1963, teaching and doing research in silviculture with emphasis on tree planting. He completed a PhD. in silviculture in 1968. Since the 1970's his silviculture activity has expanded to disturbed land revegetation, urban forestry and international forestry.

Norm, since 1957 has been a member of the Society of American Foresters and who, with his wife Karin, became NYFOA members in 1965. He developed a Catskill forest tour for the 1966 fall meeting, and has served several terms as a member of the Board of Directors. For many years Norm has graciously made arrangements for both our NYFOA Board meetings and the Annual Meetings held on the Forestry campus. This included facility reservations (made many months in advance) and the luncheon arrangements. Norm anticipated

and personally over-saw or provided the necessary program needs, ie: projectors of all types, microphones, lecterns, and lighting etc. And at many Award Luncheons often provided from his gardens beautiful Spring bouquets here in the Marshall Hall Student Lounge. In addition we all have benefited by his program participation, as a meeting speaker or leading a well planned forestry field-trip. Both professional enthusiasm and learned advice is a hallmark of Professor Richards. This is also true for his FOREST OWNER articles. Norman and his wife **Karin Heiberg Richards** have four children and two grandchildren. All are often invited to share-the-work as well as the pleasure enjoyed by the family at PINEHOLM. ○

Today, I have a double pleasure. The opportunity to present another NYFOA SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD, this one to:

WILLIAM M. MINER D

Bill was born in Spring Valley, NY and attended Syracuse University. In 1975 he became associated with the SUNY Health Science Center at the Upstate Medical Campus and began a career involved with programming the medical staff at Syracuse and throughout the world. In 1991, Bill was awarded the Governors Productivity Award, one that had effected considerable financial savings to New York State.

Bill has been an energetic and tireless supporter of NYFOA. Serving as the co-chair in the planning and execution of the 1993 Fall Meeting sponsored by CNY at the Heiberg Forest. As the CNY Representative to the NYFOA Board of Directors, he chaired the 1993-1994 Budget Committee and served on the Executive, Editorial and Legislative Committees.

In 1992 Bill became a Master Forest Owner (MFO); was instrumental and helped to organize the very ambitious project instituted by the CNY Chapter known as the **FAMILY FOREST FAIR** at Gurnee Woods (A forest property owned by Clara's parents, **Vern and Marjorie Hudson** at Elbridge.) This innovative and very successful educational forestry activity attracted immediate public support and produced record attendance for three years. Both he and Clara have devoted a great deal of time and energy in their dedicated service to NYFOA. Clara as our Treasurer; Bill as Vice Pres. and President.

It is my great pleasure to present this **SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD** to our enthusiastic, innovative and very accomplished NYFOA member. ○

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 Pfarnier
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

1967 David B. Cook
1968 Floyd Carlson
1969 Mike Demeree
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

THE 1997 NYFOA ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

Photos by Charlie Mowatt



Mike Greason (l) and Hugh Canham.



(above) Bob Sand (l), Bill Miner, and Clara Miner.



The Chow Line (above).



Rainer Brocke



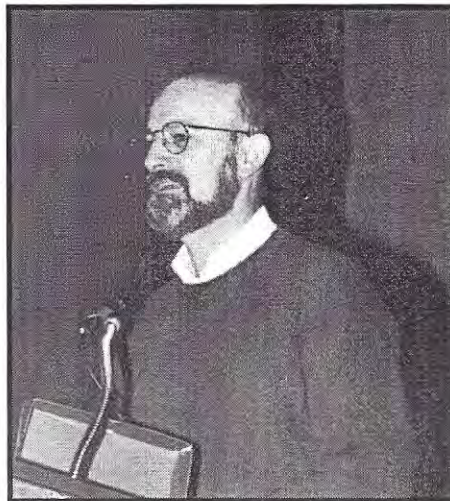
The Awards Luncheon



(above) Norman Richards (l) and Karin Heiberg Richards



The Awards Luncheon (above)

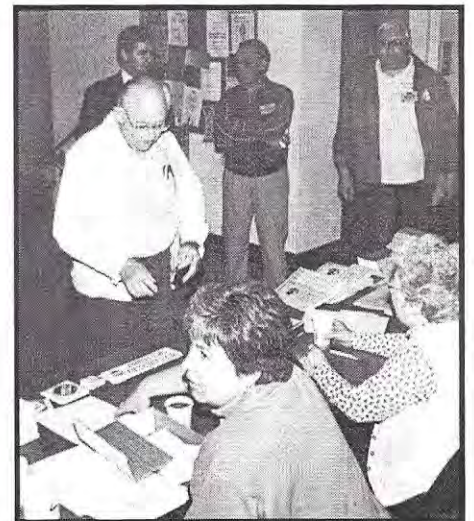


James Heffernon, Vice President, SUNY-ESF (above) and the head table (below).



The Awards Luncheon (above) and registration (below).

NYFOA President Jill Cornell (below)



Introducing NY's 1997 Outstanding Tree Farmers

Peter and Barbara Levatich
of Tompkins County, NY

The Levatich's have owned their 127 acre parcel since 1975. Ninety acres of the property has been certified as a Tree Farm since 1989.

There are several objectives which the Levatich's keep in mind when preparing the management plan for the property. It is important to note that Peter is qualified to prepare his own management plan. Timber and recreation are paramount on the Levatich Tree Farm. Abundant and diverse wildlife are the much enjoyed byproduct of the Tree Farm's successful management plan. The Tree Farm provides both physical and mental relief from the pace of the hectic world for its owners. The Levatich's also open their property up to cross country skiing, hunting, hiking and other recreational activities.

In addition to preparing his own management plan, Peter has the knowledge and equipment to do all of the work on the land himself. He has thinned some of the mature trees, and using his portable bandsaw has made boards which are used to make furniture.

The Levatich Tree Farm aggressively regenerates the forest, by planting acorns for Red Oak trees, treating surrounding areas as well as putting seedlings in TubeX for protection.

When not tending to his property, you can find Peter working with the Tompkins County Cornell Cooperative Extension, the NYS Forest Practice Board, as a board member of the NY Forest Owners Association, as a Master Forest Owner, and often hosts tours on the Tree Farm for the public and for Cornell University. Peter also attends lectures at SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry and Northeastern Loggers' Association workshops on logging.

It is with great pride that we present Peter and Barbara Levatich as the Outstanding Tree Farmers of 1997.

This announcement is reprinted with permission from the Empire State Forest Products Association's Legislative Reception Program of May 6, 1997.



Kevin S. King (l), ESFPA Executive Vice President; Jack Hamilton NYS Tree Farm Committee Chair; Barbara & Peter Levatich; and NYS Senator John "Randy" Kuhl Jr. (Bath)
This photo will appear in ESFPA's July Issue of their newsletter, *The Empire Envoy*.

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PHEROMONES

—EXPLOITING AN INSECT'S SENSE OF "SMELL"

By Douglas C. Allen

For the past twenty-five years or so, entomologists and organic chemists have combined talents in an effort to understand better the manner in which insect behavior is influenced by chemical odors. This work evolved into the science of chemical ecology, which has provided much insight about the behavior of insects and other animals.

Once the chemical ecology of a pest is understood, we may be able to take advantage of this knowledge and devise control tactics that are environmentally friendly, develop species specific survey methods and enhance the effectiveness of natural enemies. This is an exciting aspect of modern day pest management that will play a significant role in our quest for sustainable forestry practices.

The Tool

Diverse odors permeate an insect's world; some of the more important chemical signals are produced by one or both sexes of a species, others emanate from the host plant. This complex of volatile (chemicals that change readily to a vapor) and nonvolatile (chemicals that do not vaporize easily and must be touched to illicit a

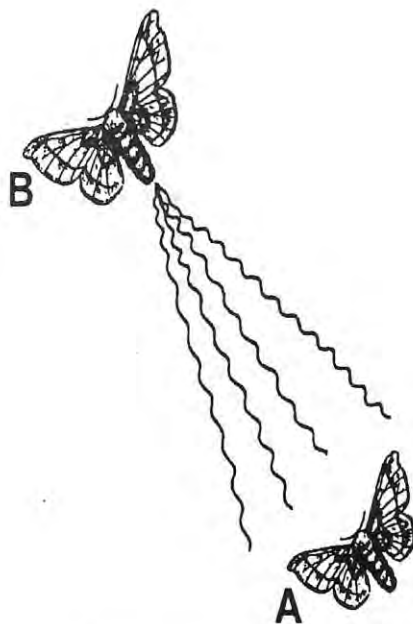


Fig. 1. Diagrammatic representation of a male moth (A) responding to a female's (B) odor plume.

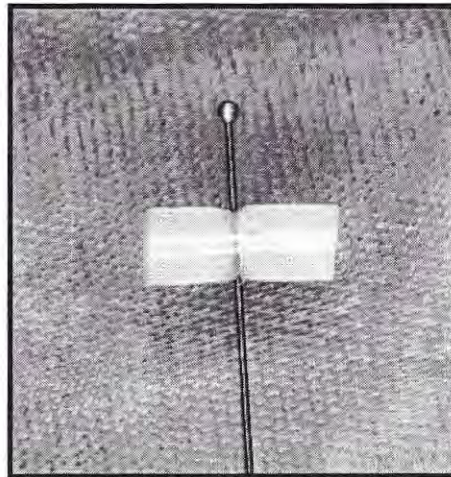


Fig. 2. This cylindrical plastic lure (3/8" long) is pinned inside a bucket or sticky trap.

response) compounds are used for several purposes by plant feeding insects and their associated parasites and predators. For example, they aid in locating food plants, natural enemies use them to find an appropriate insect host (host finding), certain forest pests employ chemical messages to attract relatives to a specific location (aggregating compounds), to ward off natural enemies (defensive compounds), or to enhance the mating process (sex attractants).

Materials that comprise the latter belong to a class of behavior modifying chemicals called pheromones (ferro-moans). These substances have been exploited extensively in an attempt to manage forest pests more effectively. By definition, a pheromone is "a chemical secreted by an animal that influences the behavior of other animals of the same species". It is because of this specificity, combined with the insect's incredible ability to detect minute quantities of the pheromone, that these substances offer so much potential as a management tool. Once the structure of the behavioral chemical is determined it can be produced synthetically. After this is accomplished and efficient systems are devised to deploy the sexual attractant, it can be utilized for a range of management purposes.

How It Works

For the sake of illustration, I will use the gypsy moth, a forest and urban pest familiar to most forest owners in New York.

Though winged, female gypsy moths are unable to fly and rely on a pheromone to draw males to them. This material is produced in special glands located in the last segment of the abdomen; that is, the posterior of the insect. Males, on the other hand, are very strong fliers. When ready to mate they fly more or less randomly through the forest until they get a "whiff" of the attractant. The male moth possesses very sophisticated olfactory organs embedded within its' antennae. The antennae and their associated sensory structures can detect very low concentrations of the pheromone. The pheromone level is high in the immediate vicinity of the source (i.e., the female) and dissipates as the odor plume moves down wind (Fig. 1). This concentration gradient is a necessary part of the attraction process. Once the male encounters the odor plume it moves "up stream" (i.e., from an area of low to an area of relatively high pheromone concentration) until it makes visual contact with the female.

Application

Survey and detection - For biomonitoring purposes, known quantities of the synthetic attractant are impregnated in a lure of some kind, usually made of rub-



Fig. 3. Typical "bucket" type pheromone trap (8"x5").

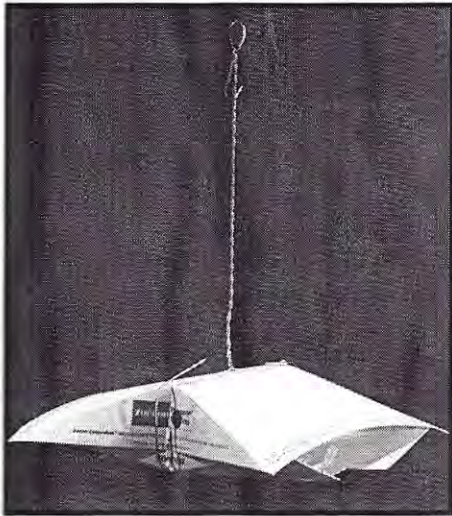


Fig. 4. Sticky trap (8"x10"). Bottom is coated with a non-drying adhesive.

ber or plastic (Fig. 2). Lures emit the attractant at a predetermined level and rate for a specified period. A lure is placed in each trap and traps are deployed in a specified manner and location, depending on the habits of the insect. Bucket-type models (Fig. 3) contain an agent that kills moths shortly after they enter the trap. Sticky traps (Fig. 4) are lined with an adhesive which retains moths on contact. Selection of a trap model is determined by a specific insect's behavior, size, population level, and the user's biomonitoring objectives.

These trapping systems provide an inexpensive, efficient and sensitive method to determine the presence or absence of a pest, to estimate differences in pest density from one location to another or to predict changes in relative abundance from one year to the next.

Surveys that utilize pheromone-baited traps are very effective at host densities so sparse it would be prohibitively expensive to sample populations in any other way.

Mating disruption - the purpose of this application is to permeate the insects's environment with enough synthetic pheromone to disrupt the mating process. Dis-

ruption results when the male is unable to orient to the female because the odor gradient is eliminated when the insect's environment is saturated with attractant. Also, under these conditions males may become habituated to the odor; that is, they do not "recognize" it as something unique and fail to respond to the stimulus. This use is most applicable at very low pest densities where the distance between individuals is great, relative to high populations, and effective chemical communication is critical to assure a meeting of the sexes.

Mass trapping - for this use, the synthetic pheromone is placed in some type of trap for the purpose of capturing a large enough segment of the pest population to lower damage levels. The approach is most applicable in situations where the pest population is confined to a small area.

Antiaggregation - many important bark beetle pests use pheromones to "inform" relatives when population numbers are likely to exceed the food supply. By regulating the density of individuals attacking a tree or log, the negative effects of competition for food are minimized. When we send a "false" message by saturating a forest stand or plantation with this type of pheromone, insects are discouraged from searching for hosts in this particular area. In other words, they get a "message" that the resident population is too dense relative to available food.

The three forest pests for which pheromone trapping is used most extensively in the northeastern United States to detect changes in population trend are gypsy moth, spruce budworm and forest tent caterpillar. Because this monitoring tool is so effective at low pest densities, it provides a sensitive early warning system which identifies threatening situations before significant damage occurs. ▲

This is the 33rd 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; updated annually) for reproduction and distribution by institutions and others (\$25-mailed); 2) photocopies suitable for individual use (\$6-mailed.) Contact the editor or NYFOA's toll free number, 1-800-836-3566.

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SILVICULTURED GARDENS?

By Jane Sorensen Lord, PhD, OTR, ND

You've seen beautiful gardens planted by artistic landscapers, with colors matching, plant size just right for the space. The tall plants in the back frame the medium ones just in front of them with borders of masses of little colorful flowers. Bees and butterflies flit through, a humming bird drinks red flower nectar. If Monet were still alive, he would paint it. Well, my gardens don't look like that.

Or maybe you've driven by farm lands of an artistically endowed farmer. His crop rows are perfectly spaced and sized. I remember seeing the plow work of a Texas soybean farmer. He plowed and planted in concentric circles within the same circle that his quarter mile long irrigation sprinkler made. My gardening efforts don't even come close.

Some gardens, like at the Cloisters museum, are divided into plant purpose. Dye plants in one, culinary herbs in another, medicinal plants in a third. I can't even seem to pull that off.

Actually, in the beginning of my Tree Farm gardening effort, I did pretty well. But trees grow and my gardens in once open copses became partially and then fully shaded. We dropped a couple of trees and pruned back errant branches to amend the problem of depressed, or at least unhappy

plants. Conversely, we also tried to keep eager volunteer (as well as enlisted) plants in line, or at least in the same beds. Still couldn't maintain order.

Then, the season after our MFO class, Gordon decided we should try managing the gardens like the woods. We don't try to get hemlock to grow away from the wet areas that make it thrive. Nor do we expect oak or black cherry to grow in the dark. What we were taught and learned to do is to prune and take care of the trees that are the happiest and strongest. Cut away and girdle weak competition to support, encourage and enhance growth and development of the naturally strongest.

We spent hours discussing observations of our gardens and various plants that we had. Plants are a bit different from forest trees. The growing cycle happens in a relative whirlwind of time. Plants die faster when they don't like their surroundings. They also multiply faster and can take over an area in a single half season. But all in all we concluded trees are just big plants, so the same concepts should apply.

And surprise, surprise, they do.

First, we moved a few species out of the beds completely. The astilbes multiplied and spread into small bushes in partial shade. They didn't need the protection of the garden borders so they were moved lock, stock, and barrel to the edge of the forest that is tall black birch, oak and maple. They loved it.

We moved mugwort (a primary herb in dream pillows) away, period. They are so invasive I picked and dried them all and will in the future collect them from the side of Port Orange Road.

A few of the bigger perennial herbs like sage, rue, lovage and salad burnet had thrived in the full sun but were not in the encroaching shade. The newly built house faced south east and had no branches. So we used the big herbs in landscaping. They grow away smiling in front of taxus, spirea and azaleas and aside by side with iris, lilies, impatiens, and marigolds. My five year old rosemary lives in her pot near the other herbs and it makes using them to cook very convenient.

I've given up trying to control shade where I couldn't make headway, and have started forest herbs like bamboo horsetail, black cohosh and ginseng. They don't seem to even notice they are in a gar-

den! The leaf structure of ginseng and black cohosh are the same, and you use the roots of both to support gonadotrophic hormones—definitely kissing cousins. I can make gallons of May wine with the sweet woodruff and if that isn't enough, gather valerian root to put myself to sleep.

I guess my gardens are beautiful in a way only a mother can love. And they are functional in a way that I perceive as part of the big picture. But mostly, I'd say our unique gardens represent a tiny bit of Westbrookville's ecosystem and our attempt to peacefully coexist with our planet. ▲

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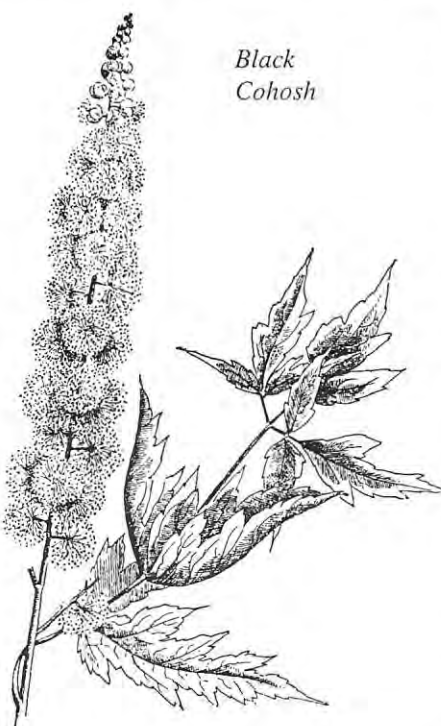
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ATTENTION small woodlot owners/part time loggers - For FARMI winches and VALBY chippers, write Hewitt's Hill Haven, Locke, NY 13092 or call (315) 497-1266 (Before 8AM or after 6PM).

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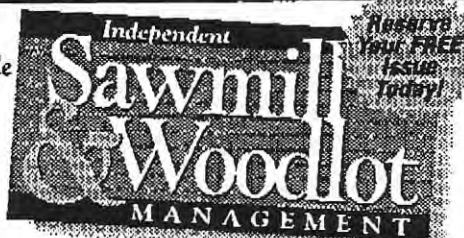
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JUN 27-AUG 30: Northern Forest Heritage Trek; 500 various sites & dates in 4 states; 1-888/NFA-TREK.

AUG 3-6: 5th Conf. on Agroforestry in North America; Cornell U.; Ithaca; Barbara Cliff; 607/255-0349.

SEP 18-21: 1997 Master Forest Owner Training Workshop; Arnot Forest; 607/255-2824.

SEP 27: CNY; NYFOA FALL MEETING; Heiberg Forest; Syracuse; 315/255-3662

For Information On

E-Mail, Estate Planning, Land Trusts, Timber Theft, Master Forest Owners.....

Call our FREE information Database and Debbie will get the answers for you.
INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS.

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