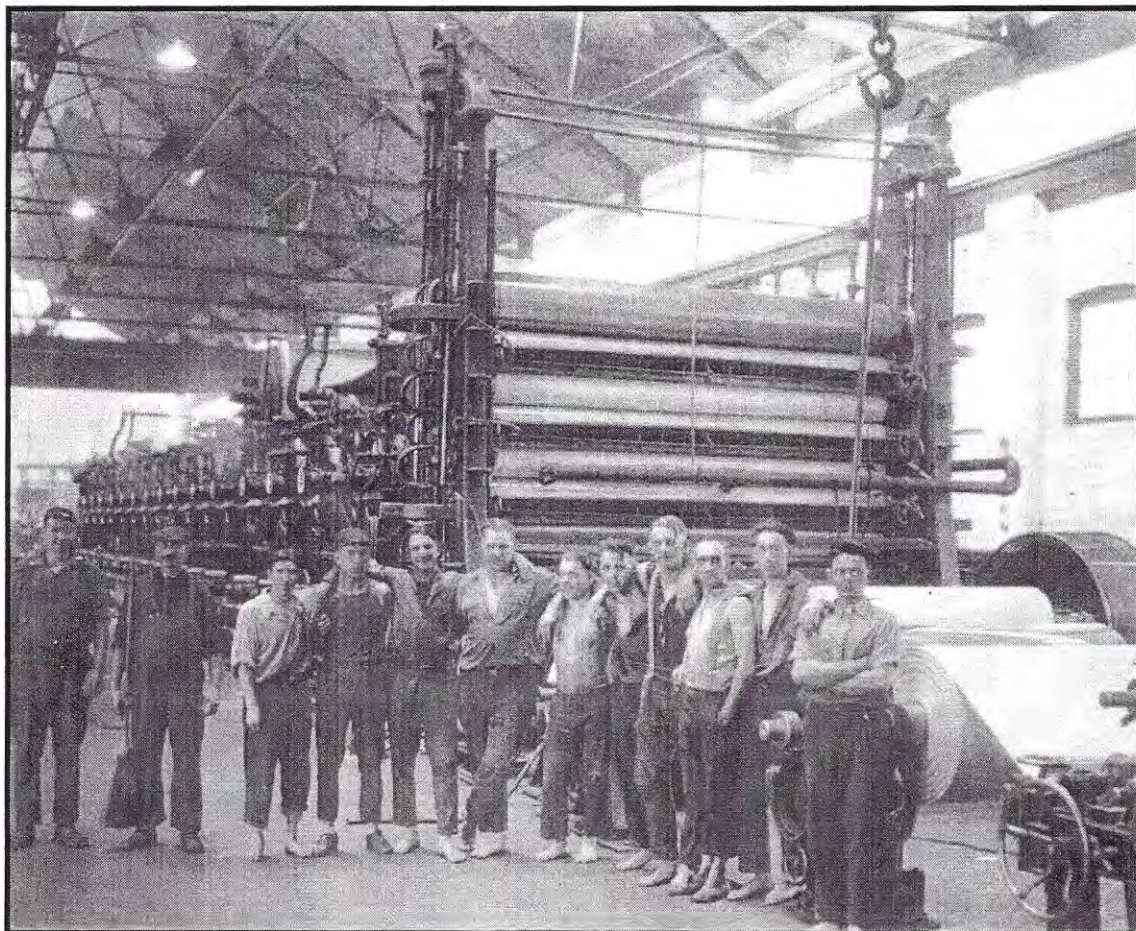


*The New York*  
**FOREST OWNER**

A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association

July/August 1998



**FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**Spring Meeting and Awards**

**Annual Fall Meeting**

**YOU BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME**

**THE NEW YORK  
FOREST OWNERS  
ASSOCIATION**

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**COVER:**

*International Paper Machine Crew  
Hudson River Mill, Early 1900's.  
(See Page 4)*

**FOREST OWNER**

A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association  
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**Umm, Umm, Good**



John Hastings

*Ron DeWitt measures a Black Cherry to determine bucking points as Ted Norton and Ken Rayna look on. (See page 12)*

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# President's Message

By Jill Cornell

There have been some interesting happenings in the Forest Community, and I want to take this opportunity to give you an update.

First, there has been a landmark event: a multi-perspective coalition was forged earlier this year made up of landowner and environmental groups, industry, and municipal associations. This is a landmark event because the history of the relationships among these branches has often been stormy. Working together has been informative for everyone, and hopefully the cooperation will continue.

The focus of the coalition was on the \$3.3 million state budget item which was earmarked for reimbursement to the municipalities and school districts that have been adversely impacted by the 480 and 480a tax program. The coalition urged the Legislators to pass the Governor's reimbursement proposal. It also recommended extending the forest tax law in order to promote preservation of open space.

The coalition group is continuing to work on the wording of expansion and on streamlining review and oversight of the tax program. (Anyone interested in a copy of the first coalition letter may request it from Debbie Gill 800 836 3566.)

Second, the NYS Stewardship commit-

## Souvenir

By Dorothy S. Darling

It is only a stone,

A smooth, sea-washed,  
Sun-hued stone  
Bathed in endless  
Surge of foam.

It is cool to the touch,

Veined in gray and green,  
A portion of earth engraved  
With traces of yesterday,  
Time recorded and stayed.

It is the past revisited,

The feel of feet ankle-deep in sand,  
Sounds of breakers on shell-strewn shore  
Shaping rock into sentinel—  
Returning waters to sea-floor.

More than this it is a time

When life moved in unrippled pools;  
Age was hidden in tides of tomorrow,  
And this small stone from the sea  
Contains the youth my age would borrow.



Jill Cornell

tee has recommended extending the USFS Forest Legacy Program in NY to include the Catskill/Delaware region. Although there is no funding for this currently, if funding is returned, it will offer residents in that area another way to conserve their forests, while keeping them **working forests**.

The Catskill Watershed Project is itself a remarkable cooperative effort between NYC, EPA, Catskill Municipalities, and residents and farmers of the Catskill region. Its success saves NYC millions of dollars on a massive filtration system, by replacing it with voluntary cooperation from the area to update waste water treatment, farm run off, etc.

Third, the NYFOA Board voted on May 2, 1998 to issue a Statement supporting the forest industry's Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). A press release was sent to major newspapers throughout the state. Please send me a copy if you saw it in your paper. (Unfortunately, the media doesn't always jump on "good news").

Fourth, NYFOA has continued to support Outdoor Recreation/Landowner Liability Legislation (S.2803-B/A.4793-B, Amending General Obligations Law). This amendment extends landowner protection from lawsuits to include "**any recreational use**". Over 120 organizations and groups have supported the legislation. Currently the Trial Lawyers opposition has prevailed with its negative (and self serving) view.

On the lighter side:

Please be sure you have plenty of NYFOA/NYWS note cards on hand for gift giving and personal use. A call to your chapter chair or to Debbie Gill is an easy way to order more. Your purchase supports NYFOA's educational outreach programs.

Please keep Friday evening and Saturday, September 11th and 12th for the NY-

FOA Fall Meeting. This meeting will be a chance to see four state forests with different stages of forest management, and to have a great time meeting and talking with other forest owners. Friday night there will be a dinner and panel discussion. There is a short business meeting scheduled for 9am on Saturday in Kanona (3 miles north of Bath). The rest of Saturday will be four interesting woodwalks. More information further on in this issue [Page 13].

Plan a wonderful fall weekend in beautiful Washington County at the **Family Forest Fair** (October 3rd and 4th.) This year: ESF Woodsman's Team will give a demonstration, and on Sunday there will be a Professional Lumberjack Competition. John Adler will be back with felling and chainsaw tips. Plans include more activities for kids, plus wide ranging information on forestry topics, wood products, and equipment. ▲

## NYS DEC's Mike Greason Retires



NYFOA will lose a favorite friend as the NYSDEC Bureau Chief of Private Land Service on August 19, 1998 when Mike retires and pursues interests as a Consultant forester, kitchen cabinet contractor and member of NYFOA. His 18 NY FOREST OWNER articles may be obtained as a collection of reprints (800/836-3566.)

NYFOA's President Jill Cornell said, "Mike Greason has always been truly dedicated to forestry. He is always cheerful, upbeat, patient with woodlot owners, generously gives his time to do a program, lead a woodwalk, write an article, tell a story, and to go many extra miles for forestry and the people involved in it. I thank you Mike, and wish you a very happy retirement!" ▲

# International Paper—100 Years of Growth

By Jill Cornell

In these times of businesses popping up, and then disappearing within a few years, it is nice to look at and congratulate International Paper for having a Centennial Celebration.

A merger agreement between 17 American paper mills on January 31, 1898 created International Paper. With plants in New York and New England, the new company immediately controlled almost 60 percent of the newsprint market in the nation.

Today's information explosion had its early origins in the revolutionary German invention of the Guttenberg printing machine in the 15 century. Demand for paper increased, and new fiber sources were sought to make paper. Paper making changed from the craft developed in China 2000 years ago and still in use in Europe at the time of the invention of moveable type.

Rags had been the source of fibers for the tedious process which produced single sheets hung on waxed lines to dry. The discovery that wood pulp could be used to make paper, along with Nicholas Louis Robert's invention of a continuous strip paper making machine opened the way for modern mass production. The Fourdrinier brothers working in England in the 19th century perfected Robert's invention, and the machine is universally called the Fourdrinier machine.

The 1858 process for making ground wood pulp into paper was developed in Germany by Voelter. The Pagenstecher brothers brought this process to the US in 1866 when they imported two grinders and began making paper, first in Massachusetts, and later expanded, and set up the Hudson River Mill in Corinth, NY. That mill was the keystone and largest mill in the 17 mill merger of 1898. [See cover, this issue.]

Immigrants brought their skills and the paper making technology to America and thereby gave International Paper an international composition even in the early days in New York. Today IP is the tenth largest company headquartered in NY, operating 16 manufacturing, timberland and administrative facilities, employing 3,300 people, and investing \$50 million per year in New York State. It is the states largest private landowner with 320,000 acres of forest land in the Adirondacks alone. Purchase, NY is headquarters for the companies' world operations in 31 countries and markets in 130 countries. IP employs over 80,000 people, owns and manages more than 6 million acres of forest land.

Investment in research and development enabled IP to control quality, develop new technologies and systemize operations. In the 1920's water power was converted to hydroelectric power to run the mills, producing enough electricity to light New

England and parts of Canada. Production diversification saw them making grocery bags, shipping containers, folding cartons, milk cartons, beverage carriers and other packaging materials. During World War II they developed waterproof Victory Board used to transport food, medicine and supplies to the war front. In 1962 they pioneered use of computers to program paper production.

Acquisitions over the years have added to the diversity of products produced: building materials, disposable products for medical and institutional use, photographic materials and composite wood products. International Paper is now a world-wide producer of printing papers, packaging and forest products.

Environmental concerns of the 1970's saw IP and the industry develop various systems for economic waste management.

Today IP is a major supporter of American Forest and Paper Association's Sustainable Forestry Initiative and Certified Logger Training.

A key factor in any business is its unlisted asset: its employees. Company loyalty over several generations is evident at its mills, where the history of IP's workforce is part of the company's history as well. At the centennial celebration at Corinth, NY this January, Alice Boisvert\* was honored. Born when IP was only five years old, Alice had painted the windows black at the Hudson River Mill in compliance with the air raid regulations of WW II. Years later, after the war was over, her grandson and third generation employee, was assigned to remove the paint she had applied.

**Congratulations, International Paper, on 100 years of growth and development!**

\*Is it just coincidence that Boisvert translates into "Greenwood"?

Jill Cornell serves as President of NYFOA

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# Forests and Climate Change

By Stacie Edick

Global warming is a hot topic these days. At our present rate of growth, the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere could double by the year 2100, having serious effects on the global climate. In December 1997, Kyoto, Japan hosted an international gathering to develop an agreement on climate change. The Kyoto Protocol is the result.

The Role of Forests in Climate Change Planning in the Northeast Conference was held May 20-21 in Saratoga Springs, NY. The Conference was hosted by the Coalition of Northeastern Governors (CONEG) with assistance from SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry and NYS Energy Research and Development Association. The conference focused on the role of forests in carbon management. How will forests fit into the United States plans to meet their Kyoto commitments? The conference attendees also discussed the role of biomass crops, wood products and policies effecting carbon management.

Carbon emissions or sources; and carbon sequestration or sinks, are two sides of the carbon management coin. Forests are a small part of this complicated issue of carbon management. And, this small part is itself incredibly complex. In the case of forestry, currently the Kyoto Protocol considers stock changes in forests due to activities including deforestation, reforestation and afforestation (planting forests on previously non-forest lands) but does not include forest management activities or end product use. However, there are plans to make additions to the Protocol and to develop rules and guidelines in the future.

Short rotation forestry and biomass fuels were identified as avenues where significant impacts could be made on emissions. The primary benefit of biomass fuels is to offset the use of fossil fuels. This is particularly true in crops that involve a three year rotation such as willow (as being developed by SUNY ESF and the Salix Consortium, see articles in New York Forest Owner Nov/Dec 97 and Sept/Oct 94). Reducing the use of fossil fuels is encouraged by the Kyoto Protocols as a primary means to reduce carbon emissions. When short rotation forestry involves 10-20 year rotations between harvests it can be compared to conventional forestry for the purposes of carbon storage. The GORCAM carbon accounting model, developed by

Oak Ridge National Laboratories, is one of several carbon management models. It indicates that in order for fossil fuel offsets to produce a significant reduction in carbon emissions it is necessary for the biomass energy system to be as efficient as the fossil fuel system and for growth rates to be optimized. We are approaching these efficiencies and growth rates with systems that are currently being developed and tested.

There are other forestry issues that need to be considered in carbon management planning. Should we use more wood in long lived products such as durable furniture and building materials? The use of more wood products can offset the use of more energy intensive products such as steel and concrete. Should we emphasize planting trees, which quickly take up carbon, or should we preserve mature forests which take up carbon slowly but have already stored large quantities of carbon? Can we do both? How do we increase the amount of carbon stored in the soil? How do we prevent the release of soil carbon during and after harvest?

What does all this mean to landowners? Are private forest owners even aware of carbon management as an issue? NYFOA President Jill Cornell suggested that the professional forestry community needs to come to some conclusions about all this confusing information and give forest owners specific advice on how to manage their forest land to increase carbon sequestration. The feeling is that forest owners are currently very interested in wildlife habitat, recreation and timber management issues. Incorporating carbon sequestration into educational programs that also stress multiple forest benefits would be an effective way to bring this issue to the attention of forest owners. Jill felt the slogan, "Have you taken up your carbon today?" might

be a bit over the top, but it could be just what is needed to get the message out.

What policies need to be developed to change the practices of forest owners? Carbon management could be included in existing programs such as the Stewardship Incentive Program. Can tax incentives be developed to influence forest owners to manage carbon better?

Other concerns for forest owners are the effects of increased atmospheric carbon on forests. An increase in carbon could work like fertilizer and increase forest productivity. However a significant rise in average temperature and changes in rainfall patterns could have drastic effects on the geographical range of many species of trees, pests and diseases. Forests could suffer significantly due to drought, forest fires, severe weather events, and new pests and diseases.

Perhaps the most we can say at this point in time is that we know changes will occur. We need to reduce the acceleration of atmospheric carbon in order to slow the rate of change. We need to develop action plans to adapt to a variety of potential climate change scenarios and then we need to pay very close attention as the changes occur so that we can act accordingly.

Forests do indeed play a naturally significant role in climate stabilization on this planet. How the role of forests is interpreted by nations responding to the Kyoto Protocols is dependent on a variety of factors as diverse as the forest itself. The issues are far more complex than what has been discussed in this small space. Surely much more will be written on the topic in the next several years. ▲

*Stacie Edick is the Biomass Field Representative, South Central New York Resource Conservation and Development, Inc.*

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# Building the Perfect Brush Pile

By Paul A. Johnson

**B**rush, it's everywhere; springing up on the edge of fields, along the road scratching your car every time you drive by, blocking a trail, or invading the picnic area. Brush consists of weed trees growing where you don't want them. Brush can also come from storms, uprooted trees or limbs broken off by high winds, ice or snow. If you own forest land, sooner or later you have to cut brush. Whatever the source, brush has to be disposed of, but what do you do with it?

Burning is one possibility. If you have the

## The Art of Piling

Piling brush is more of an art than a science, the Zen of brush piling is to "be the brush." Perhaps that's going a bit too far, but you may want to become a *pile-it*. The term comes from the simple fact that after you cut brush you have to pile it. A pile-it is a person who has developed a high level of skill in the art of brush piling. Brush piles that are properly located and constructed can provide many benefits to you and your wood lot.

vide escape cover for squirrels and rabbits? Will brush along a road or near a water diversion ditch keep silt and mud out of a stream? Once you start looking, you'll find more places for piles than you have brush to pile.

After you select the purpose and location for the brush pile you can start to build it. The purpose of the pile dictates its construction.

## Piling With Purpose in Mind

Let's begin with a brush pile designed to



*Large brush pile blocking vehicular traffic from entering a woods road.*

space to build a fire, the time to burn when the wind and other conditions are right, you are permitted to burn in your area, *and* have enough help to control it, burning is still a possibility.

You can chip the brush. Wood chips make a great mulch and compost. Chippers can be rented or maybe you're lucky enough to know someone who owns one. If you've won the lottery recently, you may even own one. Someone once told me that buying a wood chipper ranks, second only to going to Disney World as a goal for lottery winners! Otherwise, chippers are expensive and can be dangerous.

The simplest and most environmentally friendly solution is to pile it. Piled brush can control water flow, prevent erosion, provide food and cover for wildlife, control the flow of foot and vehicular traffic, and protect desirable tree seedlings from deer.

Naturally, engineers have tried to reduce piling to a science. It looks something like this:

*"Start with the largest diameter logs laid in a cardinal direction and spaced parallel to each other 1.0000 feet apart.*

*The second layer is rotated 90 degrees to the first and side by side. The third layer is rotated 180 degrees to the first..."*

That certainly is one way to build a wood pile but it lacks the charm of more useful brush piles.

The first step in building an environmentally sound and useful brush pile is to decide its purpose. Almost any brush pile will benefit wildlife, but proper placement and construction will maximize its benefits. Ask yourself, what does this area need? Does it need perching sites for songbirds near a food source or on the edge of a field? In the open woods, will brush pro-

slow the flow of water from an unpaved woods road. The basic design includes small branches and twigs on the bottom of the pile and on the uphill side. They catch and hold soil, silt and stones and slow the water as it flows through them. The branch and twig layer should be several feet deep and long enough to prevent heavy storm drainage from running around either side. Large limbs and heavier pieces must be placed on top of the twigs to anchor them. On the down hill side several stakes can be driven into the soil to prevent the entire pile from being washed away during heavy storms. In steep terrain or in areas where erosion gullies have developed, it's advisable to place several piles in long gullies. Brush piles for wildlife can be built in several ways. The simplest begins with several large, 6 to 12 inch diameter logs, placed

on the ground with space in between. The logs are covered with brush laid on top. Brush should be laid with the large ends pointing away from the center of the pile. Piles as high as 10 feet tall can be constructed in this way. The large pieces on the bottom of the pile will provide a maze for small animals to hide and shelter in. If you want to create songbird perches, begin with the basic pile described above. When the pile is two or three feet high, place several pieces of brush into the pile

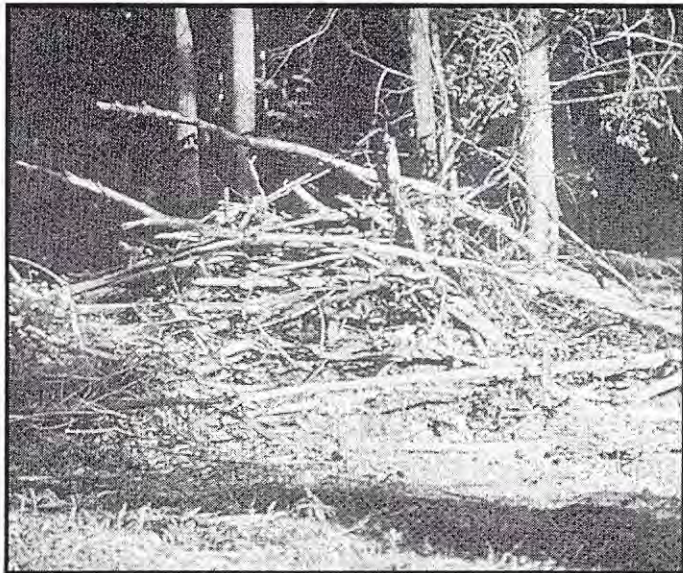
placed brush piles take advantage of this trait to protect seedlings and other plants.

If you watched many Westerns when you were young, you probably remember the way pioneers protected wagon trains. Every night they 'circled the wagons' for protection. To protect trees and plants and keep deer away you too 'can circle the wagons,' in this case with brush piles. Brush piles to keep deer out must be dense enough to discourage deer from walking through and jumping over them. Piles 4 to 5 feet tall

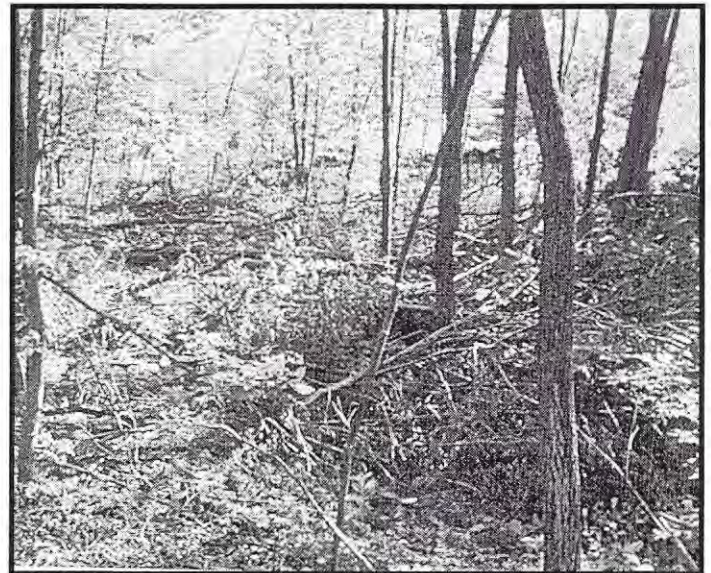
lazy too and the same technique can be used to control their movements.

### Conclusion

As you can see, brush piles can be useful in many ways and have many benefits. I didn't discuss the heart benefits you get from cutting and piling brush, but they are significant. Don't worry about selecting the wrong place or building the wrong type of pile. One of the nicest things about brush piles is the fact that in 4 or 5 years nature



*Scattered brush protects forest regeneration and diverts deer around the area.*



*Typical brush pile using a variety of sizes of wood. This pile provides escape and nesting cover for small mammals and birds. Note the song bird perches on the top of the pile.*

vertically, sticking straight up. Conifer brush can be used very effectively in this way. Build this type of pile in old fields, on the edge of power line rights-of-way, or near other sources of food; cardinals, gray catbirds and other songbirds will love it.

Another variation on this design involves placing the brush with the large end pointing toward the center of the pile. Buds and tender twigs will provide browse for deer and grouse from this construction during the first winter, if set up in the Fall.

### Dealing with Deer

Deer are exciting and wonderful to watch, but, if their numbers are too great, their over browsing can destroy tree and shrub seedlings and reduce the diversity of understory plants. Brush piles can help you have the best of both worlds. Deer are generally lazy and take the path of least resistance. Well defined deer trails are a common sight in most woodlands. Strategically

and 10 to 12 feet wide will usually do the trick. Remember to leave trails around the protected area to encourage deer to move on.

Don't make the protected area too large either; you can't protect a 40 acre woodlot this way. But, areas up to one half acre, approximately 150 feet on each side, can be screened with brush,

If you don't want to "circle the wagons" there is another way. Many areas can be protected with loose scattered piles. This is particularly effective if large trees have been cut recently and you want the forest regenerated with the same species. The remaining stumps will provide numerous sprouts and seedlings that must need space to grow. Loosely scattered brush in piles 20 to 150 feet across will keep most deer away and let enough light reach the seedlings to encourage fast growth. Once again, remember to leave enough room between the piles to allow deer to move through easily. Remember, people are generally

will recycle them and they'll be gone. In that time, brush will have grown some place else and you'll have the opportunity to start all over again. ▲

*Paul Johnston is a Consulting forester, and Forest Stewardship VIP based in Quakertown, PA. This article was reprinted from Pennsylvania Forests, Fall 1997.*

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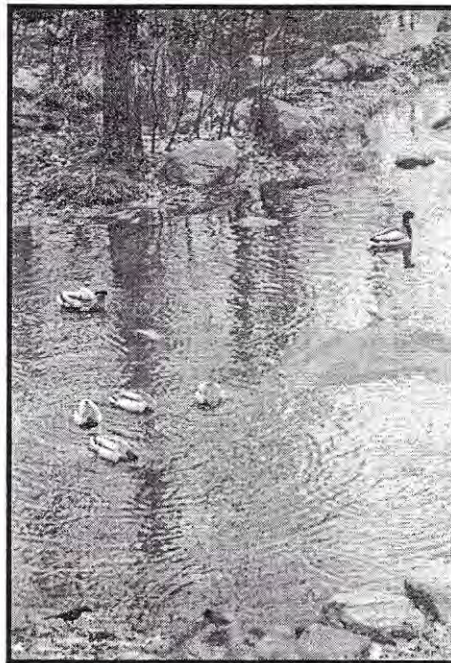
# Springtime In Our Westchester Wilderness

By Robert Bamber Marshall ©1998

"Quack!" said the Chairman of the Mallard Host Committee, swimming up close and around his splashed-down friend. As a second mallard paddled in close, all three pointed beaks skyward while babbling their greetings and the latest morning news. A pair of woodducks speedily sailed around them to a favorite feeding spot, taking advantage of the mallards' distractions. A flutter of wings and two pairs crash-landed, mallards and woodies. A third pair of woodies gawked from a high branch of a black tupelo. Today our highland swamp will be lively with wildduck action. Their excitement attracted a pair of Canada geese to drop in for a half-hour. A pair of nearby-nesting wild turkeys seem to take turns feeding. Gray squirrels are everywhere, searching under every fallen leaf, scrambling after one another around every tree, risking a fall from near the end of every high branch. A few crows constantly are flying and wandering around, watching every move by everybody else, before deciding what to eat personally. Chuck-chunk, our red-bellied woodpecker, enjoys all the company while he chucks and pecks on a dead snag. A broadwinged hawk suddenly appears, turns and twists to avoid branches in a futile pass that seems to worry no one, sits briefly on a branch near the duckpond while the ducks simply watch, soon is harassed by the crows and departs with two or three in pursuit. After heavy spring rain, especially with cracked corn in shallow water, this is where mallards and woodducks want to be. In our biggest pond, around a few rocks, this wild Westchester woodland drama is only twenty yards below our panoramic kitchen windows! For a man who loves wilderness this beats any box at Carnegie Hall or Saratoga racetrack!

How big is a wilderness? Big enough for wildlife to be wild in it? Wild enough for a Westchester mallard? A Westchester wild goose? A Hudson Bay mallard? A Hudson Bay Canada goose? A young son's wilderness may be his father's back-forty woodlot, or maybe only a clump of shrubs and trees dark and distant enough to worry his mother. For some men wilderness should be big enough for a man to believe he could be lost there, and big enough to challenge a man's courage and capabilities to endure hardships, stay alive, and find his way out. Personally, after getting lost oc-

asionally while growing up during Adirondack summers, Wyoming's Bridger Wilderness at age 15, and British Columbia's Coast Range headwaters of the Fraser River at age 17, for me no wilderness was too big or too wild. However big a wilderness might be I wanted to see the wildest wildlife hotspot in the middle of it! I joined The Wilderness Society when first formed, when I only thought it was a great idea and never met another member. Maybe I remained a member until distracted as a Navy flyer in World War II.



After World War II, during the cold war, I felt alienated by the political leadership of The Wilderness Society. I wondered how far into any wilderness the Wilderness Society's leaders ever went, and I doubted that they ever would find enough there, of whatever it was they really wanted, to satisfy their political intentions.

For instance, the caribou that warm themselves under the Alaskan pipeline never needed me. Don't misunderstand, I was concerned that the proposed pipeline crossed the caribou migration route. I knew that oil has to be hot to flow in Alaska. I favored the elevated pipeline to prevent melting of the permafrost and to avoid interference with caribou migration. I only wondered how many Wilderness Society members would ever camp or do anything

anywhere in the enormous part of Alaska where they petitioned Congress to take away freedom from Alaska's Americans.

As a young man at Dartmouth in the 1930's, I considered going to live in the backwoods of Alaska. For a man who had hunted whitetail in the Adirondacks, shot a big-billy mountain goat in British Columbia, it was logical to consider planning my forestry profession where the big game was biggest. I had created a song about Alaska using a memorized Robert W. Service poem. Today, sixty years later, it is one of many songs I like to sing!

*There's a land where the mountains are nameless, where the rivers all flow God knows where.*

*There are lives that are stirring and aimless, and deaths that escape by a hair.*

*There are mountains that nobody reckons. There are valleys unpeopled and still.*

*There's a land! Oh it beckons and beckons, and I want to go back and I will!*

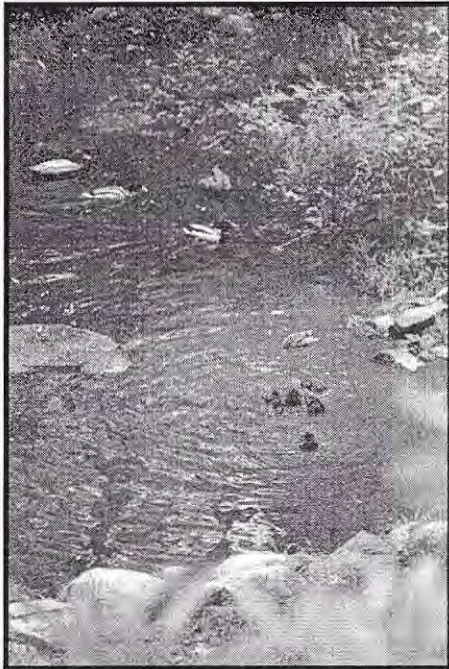
Why are Americans today easily persuaded through mass-media hysterics to ruin the lives, liberty and happiness of other Americans? I wonder if any NYFOA members want to junk practically all our long-term national forest management programs which balance forest growth with cutting, forest expense with income to prevent taxpayer cost, and which balances forest age-classes for biodiversity, greater wildlife populations, and greater timber productivity. All of which provides more jobs, more profits, and lower taxes because of profitable forest industry tax payments? How many NYFOA members will try to stop Congress from prohibiting affordable and sustainable forest management, as New York's Congressmen and Congresswomen vote the future of America's National Forests? Imagine NYFOA's concern if, like Idaho, over eighty percent of New York State was owned and ruled by today's Washington politicians, then deciding to stop all timber cutting on almost all the forested land in New York State! What do NYFOA members believe and care about freedom for the people of Idaho? When national forests were started long ago the people there could live quite freely on fifteen percent of Idaho's land: now most



of them are dependent on steady federal government programs dominated by the Washington bureaucracy and an imperial Congress! Idaho's people, like New York's people, want freedom to decide locally how to solve local problems. They don't want the President and Congress suddenly deciding they shouldn't cut a single tree in Idaho's enormous forests, after professional forest management sensibly has been evolving for almost a hundred years! The states should reclaim our constitutional states' rights!

The National Forests, almost always cooperatively managed for citizen concerns and general goodwill throughout their hundred-year history, with little strain on the taxpayers because of income from scientific forest-rotation management, should continue this sustainable forestry that pays its way. The American people's representatives in federal administration and legislative responsibility must not be misled into mismanagement by unscientific propaganda for extravagant hidden agendas. "Faraway friends" of the spotted owl, the lookalike cousin of the barred owl which hoots all over America, should not have fooled Congress into ruining some of the world's best hundred-year forest-rotation management plans. In every forest what helps one species hurts another.

I lived and worked, hunted and fished, on some of those "spotted owl" watersheds in 1949-1952, including working statistically with all the complicated resource information necessary with which to plan the sustainable allowable cut per year: for 80-year Douglas fir on high sites and 120-year Douglas fir on the poorest sites. This was done for all the forest ownerships using everybody's cutting histories for programming by ten-year age-classes. Imagine what happens when the spotted owl becomes excuse for removing the oldest



ten-year age class from the cutting rotation. Keep in mind that no management of extensive forest lands in heavy timber for any and for all resource values is possible without profit from cutting old forests and starting young forests! How much more taxes will you pay for spotted owl welfare? Foresters have proven that spotted owls don't need "virgin" old-growth timber, that the oldest classes of second-growth forest are satisfactory. But is the spotted owl law being repealed? Are the former forest management plans being restored? Are the fifty thousand unemployed being recalled to their lost jobs? No! Instead, right now, the U.S. Congress is being pressured to

pass a bill to ban all timber-cutting on National Forest land! This long-term trend must be stopped and reversed. When I think of the spirit that Gifford Pinchot brought into the creation and character of the United States Forest Service, which still is remembered in the hearts of the oldest who served probably the best and historically least expensive of all Washington's bureaucracies, it almost breaks my heart that their hundred-year scientific studies and strenuous sacrifices for Americans and American forests should be so ignored, misrepresented, dishonored, and trashed by so many that such a bill has been presented seriously to Congress. Disgraceful! Amazing! Hopefully a redhot debate and an overwhelming vote against the bill will bring America closer to a backwoodsman's understanding of forest realities! Our Society of American Foresters' position papers should win in Congress and with Americans everywhere!

What the old foresters did, in love for God and country and the American people, has been recorded in Heaven and will be remembered, forever. ▲

*Robert Bamber Marshall is a consultant forester and member of NYFOA's Lower Hudson Chapter.*

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# NEW FOREST TAX LAW?

By Henry S. Kernan

By the end of their session in June, the legislators in Albany will have considered and no doubt approved an important and long-sought change in the 480-a forest tax law. They will have authorized \$3.3 million for taxing districts calculated to have lost each year more than one per cent of their revenue through the law's exemptions. The change has much support from the governor's office and elsewhere, yet caution is in order. A problem will be resolved for taxing districts, but the results may be neither intended nor wished for.

New York has a splendid and thriving forest; and there has been special forest tax laws for nearly a century. No one has shown a causal connection between them. The present ones, 480 and 480-a, came about because of anxiety over a timber famine (which did not occur) and distrust of private ownership of forest land, an exception among the world's 8.5 billion acres of forest.

Here in New York, 51 per cent of the state is timberland, defined as forest capable of timber crops and not reserved for other uses. In New York 93 per cent is private. The owners number over half-a-mil-

lion and their woodlots average about 28 acres. Forestry expertise is likely to suspect small private woodlots. Nevertheless, a 1992 Forest Service Inventory is reassuring on almost every count. Our forests are increasing in area, volume, age and quality. The annual increment is three times removals. Their health is good and fires are under control.

Evidently the results of private management are not bad, within the limits of common law and freedom to use property as the owner sees fit.

Section 480-a has been in force 25 years and has given a different status to several thousand forestland owners. In exchange for an 80% tax exemption, they accept a six per cent stumpage tax and adherence to a 15-year management plan and other restraints specified in the law and promulgated by the DEC. One measurable result has been to weaken and confuse the finances of taxing districts, a problem which the proposed change intends to remedy. Still, elected officials do best to avoid creating privileged status within the society for which they legislate.

Legislators, also, had best avoid creating infractions over trifles. The text, regulations and procedures run to many pages of complicated detail over timing, volume, penalties and forced investment. Infractions are bound to occur; chance and caprice are certain to enter. Should public employees concern themselves about the stumpage value of a cord of firewood and collect 6 per cent of the value? Given the choice, most taxpayers would probably prefer public officials to devote time and attention to public forests and to extension rather than to enforcing the details of a management plan on private property.

All forests, public and private, are assets of environmental value. Moreover, they are so, regardless of most of the terms used to describe them. A tree functions very much the same in the Bronx or in the Adirondacks. The forest tax should be low and applied to all alike, without exception. ▲

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

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# ASK A FORESTER

By Stephen Davison

## BAD BEECH

**Q.** I have been advised by a number of people to cut all of the beech in my woods because all of the beech is sick and isn't worth anything anyway. Should I follow this advice and what is beech worth?

**A.** Even though a similar question was asked in 1986 by R. J. Sullivan of Cortland County, the issue of beech is worth examining again. It is highly unlikely that all of the beech in your woods are "sick." Beech can be infected by a number of diseases and so we must define "sick" and determine what is attacking your beech. Second, were any of the people giving advice a forester? Last, what is the beech worth? This is probably the hardest part of your question to answer.

A little background information on beech might be helpful. American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) is a major component of the northern hardwood forest. Beech will grow wherever moisture is fairly abundant in the upper soil and can be found in river bottoms and at the highest elevations of the Southern Appalachian Mountains.

Beech reproduces readily from seed, root suckers and stump sprouts. It has been observed that trees that grow from seed seem to be healthier and of better form than those grown from roots or stumps. Beech is very shade tolerant and responds quickly when released to sunlight.

Beech has a very thin bark and is very susceptible to damage from fire, sunscald and logging equipment. Beech is subject to many diseases, the most important being beech bark disease. It is subject to cankers, heart rot and discoloration of the sapwood. It is common to see healthy beech alongside diseased beech that are badly infected with beech bark disease. It is common practice to leave healthy beech on state forest land in the hope that there may be some resistance to the beech bark disease.

The probable culprit with your beech is the beech bark disease. This disease is a two stage phenomenon involving an insect, beech scale (*Cryptococcus fagi*) and fungus (*Nectria coccinea* var. *faginata*.) As the insect feeds it secretes a protective covering that looks like white powder. The insect makes very small holes in the bark. It is through these holes that the fungus en-

ters the tree. The presence of the *Nectria* can be confirmed by appearance of orange fruiting bodies of the fungus. The bark tissue is attacked and killed causing damage that looks like patches of sunken bark. In extreme cases, the entire tree is girdled under the bark and the tree will become weak at that point and break off there.

What your beech are worth will help determine what to do next. It is not a certainty that all of your beech will get beech bark disease or any other disease. Beech has traditionally been a low value hardwood and has been overlooked in the past by loggers. It has been said many times that beech sawtimber and beech firewood are approximately equal in value. Beech sawtimber stumpage today is worth around \$70 per thousand board feet while the same amount of wood sold as firewood is worth about \$25. Of course, beech veneer is worth much more as is veneer of any species. There are other values of beech besides the dollar value. This tree is a valuable species for wildlife. Deer, turkey and other wildlife will feed on the beechnuts. The tree has a distinctive gray color and is aesthetically pleasing to have in the woods. Individual trees hold soil in place and prevent erosion. What are these values? You as the landowner must answer the question, "What is the beech worth?"

## BURLS

**Q.** I've seen large knobs on the trunks of maples. Are these burls? What can you tell me about them?

**A.** You may be seeing burls. A burl is usually a large, more or less rounded woody swelling or overgrowth that can form on the trunks and limbs of almost any tree species that develops trouble in the actively growing bark layer. The surface of a burl may be corrugated or smooth, but usually are somewhat gnarled. Burls may be caused by bacteria, fungi, insects, mistletoes, and injuries. Often, the cause for the burl can not be explained. It has been suggested that burl study is necessary because there is some similarity between the growth of burls on Alaskan spruce trees and the occurrence of some cancer in humans.

A tree can have one or more burls. Burls often contain a cluster of adventitious or unformed leaf buds. Burls can bear many buds or in some cases sprouts. The swell-



Steve Davison

ing of the burl results from a hormonal disturbance which leads to uncontrolled growth. Since this growth is much faster than the rest of the tree, a bulge occurs.

The growth pattern within the burl produces an attractive highly figured wood with an unpredictable and swirling grain. Burls have been traditionally used to produce turned bowls and carved articles with distinct grains, or as veneers to display the grain. Burls on black cherry, sugar maple, redwood, and black walnut are very highly valued. When such burls are sawn and the sawn face smoothed, the wood grain is seen to swirl around each bud trace.

On some trees, burls, containing many buds, can occur at the root collar either partially exposed or totally under the soil. These burls may be an adaptation by the tree for growth after an injury. If produced as a normal part of plant development, such burls are called lignotubers. They are common on birches, eucalyptus, mountain laurel, manzanita, and rhododendron. Bud burls may be seen occasionally also on littleleaf linden and Norway maple.

Burls can be valuable to the right person. The finished product certainly indicates that there is a demand for burls. Here are some recent prices for burl items: Maple Bowl Pedestal (2.5in x 7.75in)- \$22, Spalted Birch Bowl (3.5in x 9.75in)- \$60, Maple Bowl (2.75in x 7.75in)-\$45, Bird's Eye Maple Bowl (3.5in x 9.00in)-\$60, Bird's Eye Shallow Bowl (1.5in x 7.75in)-\$30, Tiny Maple Bowl (1.75in x 4.75in)-\$12, Black Cherry Bowl (2.75in x 7.5in)-\$45, Small Black Cherry Bowl (1.5in x 5.25in)-\$18. I have been told by a logger that burls on the "stump" are worth between \$25 and \$100.

Burls are a curiosity in the forest and take a long time to grow. They don't kill the trees and so are not a threat to the forests, and they only affect a small percentage of trees. They can also be very valuable. ▲ Steve Davison is a NYSDEC Sr. Forester in the Cortland Office.

**A**pplication or Facsimile Application for Membership in the New York Forest Owners Association.

I/We would like to support good forestry and stewardship of New York's forest lands.

( ) I/We own \_\_\_\_\_ acres of woodland.

( ) I/We do not own woodland but support the Association's objectives.

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City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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County of Woodlot \_\_\_\_\_

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INDIVIDUAL	\$20
FAMILY (or co-owners)	\$25
CONTRIBUTING	\$30-\$100
SPONSORING	\$101 and up

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Six issues of the NY FOREST OWNER, woodswalks, chapter meetings, and two statewide meetings for all members.

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**LETTERS**

**HELP**

I would like to find someone to work with me on my land for about a week to ten days in exchange for my work on his land for the equivalent. It is irresponsible to work alone in the woods.

I have been afraid of hiring someone without insurance and I do not know if it is possible to get someone insured. I imagine that others have similar problems so this might be of common interest to your readers.

NYFOA might want to establish some kind of exchange service for people who feel as I do about this.

If I cannot find anyone in another way I thought I could put an ad in the FO as follows:

I am looking for someone willing to work with me in my woods near Corn-ing in September in exchange for my work in theirs. I am flexible about what constitutes an exchange. You can read a book while I do thinning and telephone for help if I get into trouble.

If you are insured, I will pay for the help.

—Jim Martin, 49 2501 4127, fax 49 251 8365502, email: JIM\_MARTIN@FH-Muenster.DE and address: Thierstr.9, 48165 Muenster Germany or Editor.

**Interludes In A Waterfall**

By David H. Roche

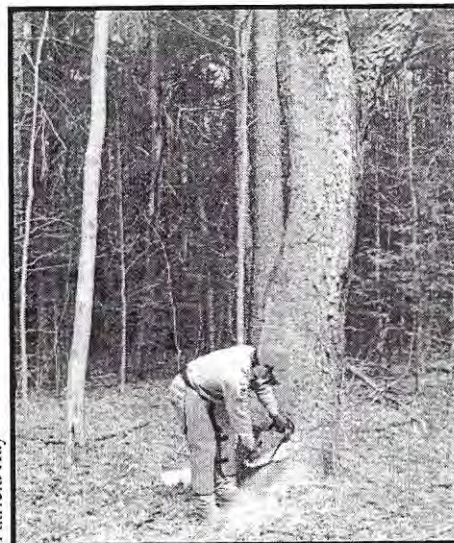
Quietness  
drops together with the thunder  
to the bottom of the falls  
and separates into pools  
between the rapids  
where it is so quiet  
you can almost hear the trout whispering;

"Its alright, he doesn't have a pole."

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**SEA WOODSWALK**

—A Broad Program



Patricia Kay

Ted Norton demonstrates proper felling technique at SEA Chapter meeting

Saturday, April 18th our Spring '98 Woodswalk was graciously hosted by Pat Kay and Ken Rayna on their property on Greens Corners Road in Galway, (Saratoga Co.)

The program featured a portable band sawmill owned and operated by Ron & Judy De Witt of Saleml (Washington Co.) After a large 17" dbh. Black Cherry was felled by DEC Senior Forester, Tad Norton, the De Witt's milled the log. 209 bd. ft. were recovered. To see a mill come in and actually cut a log into lumber was very educational and the De Witts did a great job.

Tad then put on a program emphasizing chainsaw safety, maintenance and precision tree felling using the plunge cut technique. His presentation and the felling of a very large, hazardous wolf tree in the afternoon elicited much worthwhile discussion on safety considerations and alternatives while raising everyone's safety consciousness level.

DEC Senior Forester, John Hastings, led a woodswalk to inspect a pending timber sale marking on the Kay's property. Featured were discussions on the reasons for trees selected to be cut, skid road layout for future access, recreational use and timber sale contract considerations.

The thirty five members attending spent an interesting, informative and enjoyable day together.

# NYFOA Fall Membership Meeting

## Co-Sponsored with the Tioga Chapter

**Friday & Saturday September 11 & 12, 1998**

at

The Tally-Ho Restaurant in Kanona, NY  
1 mile west of Route 17 at Exit 37, which is  
3 miles north of Bath and 1 mile south of Rt. 390

Friday 9/11	<b>6-7:30 PM</b>	Social Hour cash bar
	<b>7:30-8:30 PM</b>	Dinner
	<b>8:30 PM</b>	Panel discussion on changes in the forest industry and their impact on private forest owners
Saturday 9/12	<b>8-9:00 AM</b>	Breakfast
	<b>9:00 AM</b>	Short Business Meeting

**9:30 AM - approx. 1:30 PM:** Tour, by car of a nearby State demonstration forest with DEC Senior Forester Mark Keister to see how the DEC manages their forests. There will be management discussions at several areas including clear cuts, TSI, plantations, and mature forests. Box lunches will be at a State recreation site.

**Lodging:** Call for reservations at NYFOA rate. In Bath (Route 17 exit 38) turn right at the first traffic light to:

- \* **Super 8 Motel:** \$41.50/\$47.50 single/double  
Phone: 607-776-2187; fax 607-776-3206 before 9/1/98
- \* **Days Inn:** \$60.00 single or double  
Phone 607-776-7644; fax 607-776-7650 before 8/25/98
- \* **Tally-Ho:** free parking for RVs

**Reservations:** Send to NYFOA, Box 180, Fairport, NY 14450

Reservations must be received by Friday **9/4/98**. Use the following or a facsimile thereof:

**Registration:** \$15.00 per person; \$20.00 couple

**Dinner 9/11:** \$10.00 per person

**Breakfast 9/12:** \$5.00 per person

**Box Lunch:** \$5.00 per person      **TOTAL:**

NAME(S):

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# THE 36TH ANNUAL AWARDS

By Robert Sand, Chairperson of the Awards Committee, as remarks delivered at the awards luncheon.

One highlight of today's luncheon program is the 1998 HEIBERG MEMORIAL AWARD. This is our 32nd. presentation. On April 30, 1966 at NYFOA's 4th. Annual meeting we recognized Dean Hardy L. Shirley 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 N.Y. College of Forestry. Heiberg first proposed the establishment of an association of Forest Landowners in N.Y. State. Enlisting the efforts of Dean Shirley, they initiated the meetings that eventually organized this successful New York Forest Owners Association. This award is presented in Professor Heiberg's memory.

Today we honor an exceptional recipient, a forest owner who has demonstrated exemplary forestry and given a great deal of his time advocating that others do the same. On his forest holdings he has practiced a true stewardship. During a long professional career he has created beauty, and throughout all those years has served many organizations. We honor a man of great character and dedication, who has demonstrated outstanding citizenship locally and across our State, by the presentation of this 1998 Heiberg Memorial Award to:

## PETER S. LEVATICH

Peter was born in Slovakia; of Hungarian parents. At the end of World War II his family moved to Munich, Germany. After graduating high school in 1947 he worked as a Journeyman silversmith, then in 1950 emigrated to the US and became a steel worker in Buffalo. For one semester he attended the U.of B., then matriculated at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, graduating in 1956 in architecture, thus following in the footsteps of his father. Levatich became licensed to practice in 1959, moved to the Ithaca area and was involved in the design and construction of a new ITHACA COLLEGE campus on South Hill. From 1963-1990 he was in a private architectural practice in Ithaca. Peter has had architectural work published in the U.S., England



Bob Sand, Peter and Barbara Levatich

and Germany. He was appointed to the NYS Council of Architecture by Gov. Malcolm Wilson and served on the NYS Education Dept's professional registration Board for Architecture. For a number of years, Peter was on the faculty at the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Cornell University.

Peter is a long time NYFOA member, serving as both a Director and as Vice Pres. of NYFOA. In 1975 he started managing his 82 acre HOBNOB FOREST near Brooktondale and in 1992 enlarged it to 128 acres. The Levatich Family's HOBNOB FOREST hosted the 1992 NYFOA Fall Meeting. Peter is a MFO class of '92 and in 1997 was the NY Tree Farmer of the year. During the past 6 years he has been a contributor to The NEW YORK FOREST OWNER as author of 16 articles.

Currently he is a member of the Rensselaer Newman Foundation Board of Trustees; Director and Vice Chair of the New York Woodland Steward, Inc. and is Vice chair of the NYSDEC Region 7 Forest Practice Board. He is a frequent advisor and a ready source of counsel to other forest owners seeking his recommendations as a MFO.

Here is a person who is close to the soil, who daily finds both pleasure and beauty in the world of Nature. Peter is a perfectionist when it comes to all his interests, be it harvesting and sawmilling his own sawlogs, designing and constructing beautiful hardwood furniture, or the piling in straight and uniform ricks his household & workshop firewood from thinnings in his beautiful growing forest.

This short review of the exemplifying commitment to his practice of Forestry and

Conservation here in New York State is truly distinguished. Today it is my distinct pleasure to present the 1998 Heiberg Memorial Award to my good friend and neighbor.

This tangible token of appreciation is acknowledgement for his outstanding dedication and the many contributions of service to Forestry and NYFOA.

And, I want to thank Barbara Levatich for coming to Syracuse and sharing this happy occasion with us. ▲

## 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
- 1997 Vernon C. Hudson
- 1998 Charles P. Mowatt

# NYFOA'S OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

**T**oday we honor our 1998 recipient of NYFOA'S OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD. It is the twenty first time that a walnut plaque is to be presented that recognizes an outstanding service to the NYFOA membership. And for me, the opportunity I have anticipated for a very long time, for it is recognition of capable involvement, gifted concern and support given graciously, year after year, to our members.

It is a very special pleasure for me to make this presentation to:

## CHARLES P. MOWATT

This is NYFOA's 36th. year of forest owner service that our membership has benefited by the allegiance and time of many volunteer energies - a "labor of love" that brings both pleasure and satisfaction to each one. Our members are served by many dedicated people—people who share with other forest owners their enthusiasm, management skills and a great deal of individual expertise gleaned by experience. AND, WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO NYFOA.

Charles P. Mowatt was born in Kenmore, NY., attended the College of Forestry, graduating in the Class of 1958, followed by a two year enlistment stint as a radio



Jim Peck

Bob Sand (l.) and Charlie Mowatt

operator with the U.S. Navy. Soon thereafter, Charlie the FORESTER moved into high gear working diligently in southwestern New York with D.E.C. In 1993 he retired after a 32 year forestry career. He and Marian now live near Franklinville on the farm formerly owned by the Mowatt family in Cattaraugus County.

The Mowatts have been owners of forestland for over 30 years. They have planted thousands of conifer seedlings, completed 60 acres of T.S.I. practices and established permanent growth plots to annually document tree growth. They have harvested marked-tree timber sales, established over five miles of access trails and roads, and last year personally logged 6 thousand ft. of Red pine, had it milled on site and utilized the lumber to construct a 24'x40' garage at their home.

Now to review the activities of Charlie and his years of involvement with NYFOA.

- The Mowatts have been members of NYFOA since 1988.
- Assisted in the organization of the Allegheny Foothills Chapter.
- Served nine years on the NYFOA Board of Directors, as a Chapter representative, an elected Director and as our First Vice Pres.
- He served as NYFOA's Statewide Woodswalk Chair and Chapter Relations Committees along with membership on the Executive and other NYFOA committees.
- With money provided by donations given in memory of Karen Anderson, Charlie and Marian developed the NYFOA tabletop display. Over the last three years,

this display has made 36 appearances at forestry seminars, fairs, meeting and malls from Erie, Pa. to Stonykill Farm Days at Wappinger Falls. The Mowatts personally attended 25 of these Tabletop Displays. At the March 21, 1998 Lockport Forest Landowners Seminar, the Display helped NYFOA gain 9 paid members.

• A successful project of the Allegheny Foothills Chapter is an annual forest Seed & Nut collection. With some of this income, Charlie proposed establishment of the NYFOA Scholarship Fund at the Syracuse Forestry College. This Fund is now over its \$10,000 goal. Thanks to the contributions of AFC and gifts from other NYFOA Chapters and members, it is now a viable ESF annual NYFOA Scholarship Fund.

I feel there is true wisdom in that old saying which states: "That behind every good man is to be found a very good woman". We acknowledge this now with a warm and sincere thank you to **Marian Mowatt** for her part of this exceptional team. Each compliments the other in giving inspirational leadership, outstanding organizational and communicator skills at every level of NYFOA. ▲

## Past Recipients

- 1978 Emiel Palmer
- 1979 Ken Eberly
- 1980 Helen Varian
- 1981 J. Lewis Dumond
- 1982 Lloyd Strombeck
- 1983 Evelyn Stock
- 1984 Dorothy Wertheimer
- 1985 David H. Hanaburgh
- 1986 A. W. Roberts, Jr.
- 1987 Howard O. Ward
- 1988 Mary & Stuart McCarty
- 1989 Alan R. Knight
- 1990 Earl Pfarner
- 1991 Helen & John Marchant
- 1992 Richard J. Fox
- 1993 Wesley E. Suhr
- 1994 Alfred B. Signor
- 1995 Betty & Don Wagner
- 1996 Betty Densmore
- 1997 Norman Richards
- 1998 Peter S. Levatich

### Death of a Friend

By Sidney L. Perry

The Trees

We sold them fourteen months ago

It was sad - signing the paper

That condemned them to die

It's worse now

Watching the sawdust fly

Seeing them lying there - in a pile

But

The Gypsy Moth had done it's damage

Most would have died In a few short

years - anyway

This way

They will become a useful product

Lumber

To be formed and shaped

Into beautiful things for mankind

Like a second life

Even so

It's hard

To see an old friend die.

# NYS 1998 TREE FARM AWARD

By Donna Rogler

The New York Tree Farm Committee has selected **Ron and Peggy Pedersen** of Latham, as the 1998 Outstanding Tree Farmers for New York State. Ron and Peggy's 175 acre Tree Farm is located in the Town of Sanford, Broome County. Certified NY Tree Farm #606 in 1979, the property has been in the Pedersen family since 1944 and has had a management plan since 1949. Ron and Peggy have owned the land for 24 years. Their management objectives include production of quality timber, enhancement of wildlife habitat, recreation and enjoyment of their property.

Management activities accomplished in the last five years include a selection system harvest and thinning yielding 9,000 board feet of poplar and larch, 52,000 board feet of red pine, 10 cords of spruce pulp, and nine cords of firewood. Three acres of Douglas Fir and American Chestnut were planted, while natural regeneration was encouraged on 49 acres. Six acres of spruce was thinned; a 1.5 acre forest opening was created; one acre of wildlife shrubs were



Jim Peck

Donna Rogler (l), Ron & Peggy Pedersen & Gerry Kachmor

planted, and 2,000 feet of trail was constructed. Most of the actual Tree Farm work is done by Ron himself.

While the Tree Farm Program recognizes and honors forest owners for practicing good forest management, the Pedersens were selected as Outstanding Tree Farmers for traveling beyond the boundaries of their woodlot and communicating the message of good forest management. Ron has produced a Timber Theft slide/video and booklet for NYFOA, which was distributed statewide. He moderated the landowner/

forester/logger communication panel at the 1998 Winter Meeting of the New York Society of American Foresters. A member of the New York Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Implementation Committee, Ron is the Landowner Representative to the American Forest and Paper Association's National Forum on Sustainable Forestry. He is on the Organizing Committee for the Family Forest Fair, the NYFOA and Capital District Chapter Boards, Director and Corporate Secretary of the NY Woodland Stewards, Inc. and Director of the Empire State Forest Foundation, Inc. A recipient of the NYFOA President's Award, Ron is a charter member of NYFOA, a founding member of the Capital District Chapter and currently Vice-president of NYFOA.

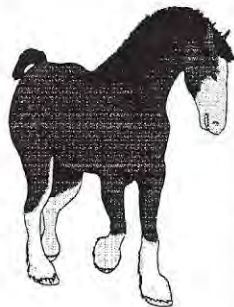
The Pedersen's Tree Farm was nominated by DEC Senior Forester **Gerry Kachmor**. ▲

*Donna Rogler is Director of Education for the Catskill Forest Association and Chairperson of the NYS Tree Farm Committee.*

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# NYFOA'S SPRING MEETING

By Dick Fox (& a Sony Digital Camera)



*Registration and Greetings*



*Ralph Nyland: What Silviculture  
for Your Land?*



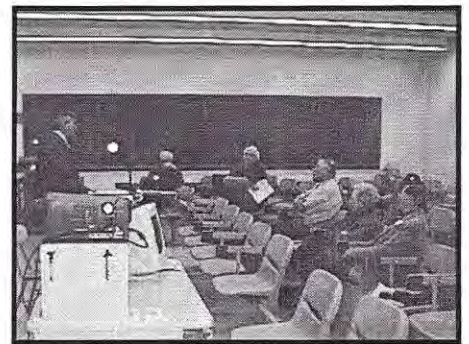
*Composite: Jim Peek and One of His  
Stunning Slides*



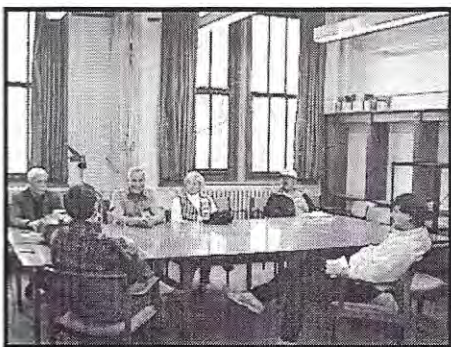
*Lunch in Nifkin Lounge, Marshall Hall*



*Catskill Forest Assoc.'s Donna Rogler*



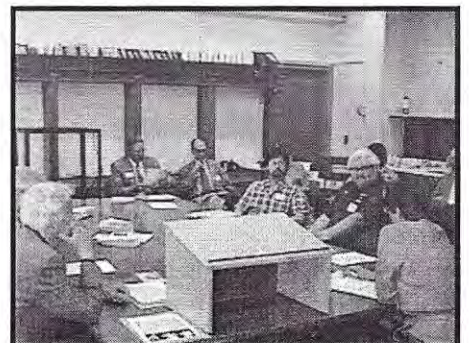
*Investigator James L. Masuicca's Timber  
Theft Workshop*



*Dave Forness: Markets for Low Grade  
Products Workshop*



*Professor Hugh Canham "Picking Up"*



*Reorganizational Meeting of the  
NYFOA's Board of Directors*

# You Build It and They Will Come: *A Wildlife Primer*

By Gary Goff, Extension Associate, Cornell University

The "It" in the title is HABITAT and the "They" is WILDLIFE. Most NY forest owners value the wildlife on their land more highly than its sawtimber potential. Fortunately, management for either objective can be quite compatible for the other. That is, with careful planning both objectives can be enhanced simultaneously. The purpose of this paper is to introduce a few key concepts that can be the basis for further study. Fortunately, scores of excellent publications are available to forest owners interested in improving their lands for wildlife.

## The key to viable, sustainable wildlife populations is HABITAT.

Most wildlife management is based on creating or preserving habitat. Habitat equates to "home" and consists of the necessities of life — food, water, and cover. Technically there is no such thing as "good" or "bad" habitat per se, as some wildlife species will use even the most "barren" looking areas. Habitat has little meaning as a general term, but is best associated with a single species or perhaps with a community of species that live in the same geographic region. Examples include wildlife that live in a wetland or in a mature northern hardwood forest.

As a woodland owner, your goal may be to supply quality habitat for a favored wildlife species. The quantity, quality, spacing, and availability of food and cover will determine how good or suitable is the habitat. Let's use the gray squirrel as an example of a species that you might wish to supply "good habitat". Squirrels need adequate food supplies year-round. Spring foods can consist of sap, flower and leaf buds of selected tree species; summer foods might be mushrooms, seeds and berries; and favorite fall and winter foods are apples and nuts. Stable squirrel populations are dependent on a variety of different foods in each season, as the quantity of any one food item will vary year by year. Water is seldom a problem for squirrels, but the provision of a pond, a stream pool, or the deepening of a seep can help ensure an adequate supply. Squirrels need nesting and winter denning cover. Hollow trees supply both of these. The last factor to consider is the spacing or juxtaposition of food, water, and cover throughout your woods. The more interspersed these habitat components are, the larger the population of squirrels the woodlot can support, as each squirrel has

all his habitat needs within a relatively small home range.

## All habitats have a carrying capacity.

A common goal of forest owners is to optimize the number of "favored" wildlife species on their land. That generally means they want to increase the population size, or have their favorite species spend more time on their land. To accomplish this, the habitat needs to be improved to support more individuals. Just as a pasture will support only a certain number of livestock, a woodlot will only support a limited num-



*The browse line on these red cedars in the St. Lawrence River Valley indicates that the habitat has exceeded its CARRYING CAPACITY for deer.*

ber of any one wildlife species. This concept is called the **carrying capacity**, or the number animals of a species that an area of land can support over a period of time. The focus of management should be on **limiting factors**, i.e., the habitat components that are limiting the growth of the population, or not allowing the carrying capacity to increase. Using squirrels once again as an example, winter dens are often the limiting factor in relatively young woodlots because there are few old, mature trees with suitable cavities. In such woodlots, squirrels frequently build leaf nests that are inferior to cavity dens. In this circumstance, the owner might decide to build artificial dens out of wood or discarded auto tires.

It is often impossible to supply all the habitat requirements of a species on one ownership parcel. Deer have a home range of at least 600 acres, a flock of wild turkeys may range over 10 sq. miles in search of food and cover, and mated pairs of barred owls defend a home territory of 675 acres. Therefore, it is best to focus on providing the habitat component that is in shortest supply in the "neighborhood". To identify the missing component, conduct a driving or walking tour of adjacent owner-

ship parcels and/or obtain an aerial photo of the area and look for missing or limited habitat components, such as conifer cover, open grasslands, wetlands, mature forests, etc.

## Forests are an ever-changing ecosystem.

In the previous example, the woodlot would in time grow large, old trees. This points out another important factor to consider when choosing appropriate habitat management practices. All woodlots are part of an ever changing **ecosystem**, i.e., an interacting system of plants, animals, soil, microorganisms, and climate. Nature generally follows a fairly orderly and predictable process whereby one plant community is gradually replaced by another over time. This process is called **natural succession**. In time, as young forests become older, more and more trees will become larger and start to decay, thereby supplying cavity dens for squirrels and a multitude of wildlife species dependent on tree dens. Here, time works well for the person interested in squirrels. However, the owner interested in wildlife such as ruffed grouse and cottontail rabbits that use early-succession-stage vegetation, would not be pleased with the transformation of a brushlot (good grouse habitat) to a mature forest. The ownership objective might be to hold succession at its current stage or even to set it back to a combination of brush and grasslands. It's true that everything a forest owner does, or doesn't do, affects wildlife because even unmanaged woodlands change over time.

Nature's way of setting back succession is common through what people consider natural disasters, i.e., floods, wind and ice storms, fire, and insect or disease epidemics. Flooding by beavers is perhaps a bit more acceptable to our way of thinking, but the results are the same. Each of these forces can rapidly transform a mature forest to a brushlot or a wetland. Such vegetative changes are followed by a corresponding change in the wildlife community inhabiting the area. Similarly, landowners use chainsaws, brushhogs, controlled burns, or perhaps herbicides to set back succession in plant communities with the goal of providing improved habitat for desired wildlife species.

## Obtaining adequate regeneration is critical to successful habitat manipulation.

**Regeneration** is the process by which forests are replaced or renewed by natural or artificial means. Cutting or planting veg-

etation is undertaken to change the age, size, vigor, species, or form of the vegetation that makes up the current land cover. The goal is to provide better cover or food for desirable wildlife species. While the goal is usually laudable, success is often difficult to achieve. A multitude of factors may intervene and lay waste to the best-laid plans. Deer, rabbits and voles typically munch young seedlings. Droughts raise havoc with new tree plantings. Tree and shrub species must be well matched to site characteristics, such as soil type and moisture, growing seasons, and sunlight availability. Natural regeneration, through seeds or sprouts is greatly influenced by deer populations, site characteristics, availability of seed sources, competition with other vegetation, timing or season of the cutting or harvest, and existence (or absence) of advanced desirable or undesirable regeneration. Luck will not carry the day, as there are just too many variables that must be controlled and correctly factored into a management plan. Do everything you can to ensure successful tree or shrub regeneration, as failure is just too expensive in terms of squandered time, money, resources, and opportunity.

#### What's a forest owner to do?

As I stated at the beginning of this article, help is available through scores of affordable publications and videos written for private forest owners. Some good references are listed at the end of this article. Help is also available from your neighbors through the NY Master Forest Owner/COVERTS Volunteer Program. One hundred forty-five volunteers are ready to speak or meet with forest owners throughout NY state. Through their experience and special training they have much to offer (free of charge and no-obligation), in advice to landowners regarding where to find information or technical assistance. Brochures about the program and lists of volunteers are available from Cornell Cooperative Extension county offices and NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation regional offices.

Landowners should work out a simple, inexpensive, management plan that includes finding assistance. It's important to determine habitat limiting factors and devise a management strategy to supply the missing component(s). Always work with nature in a manner that complements natural succession rather than attempting to overpower it. Once experience breeds confidence, the complexity, and investment of time and effort can increase to address more

demanding goals. An example of a relatively high-success, low-input habitat improvement project is the building of bluebird houses. Most "bluebird" project references describe the habitat needs of bluebirds and provide some excellent construction designs for safe, species-specific houses. Projects involving the creation of water or wetland habitats are usually moderately complex and "expensive", but often bring immediate, dramatic, and rewarding results as a different wildlife community occupies the newly established ecosystem.

Finally, perhaps the most ambitious and challenging endeavor is coordinating sawtimber management and eventual harvests with wildlife management goals. The scale



*Three SUCCESSIONAL STAGES are evident in this scene: grassland, brushland, small sawtimber.*

of the operation and the magnitude of change will bring about a significant change in the appearance of the woodlot and its suitability for various wildlife species. Still, the change can bring about some great opportunities to diversify woodland vegetation (age, size, species, vigor, spacing, and form), and thereby provide a variety of habitats suitable to more wildlife species. Also, many wildlife species depend on several successional stages through their life cycle and seasons. As an example, wild turkeys benefit greatly from having a combination of open fields, brush, and mature woodlots composed of mixed hardwood species in their home range.

#### Summary

1. Get to know the life cycle and habitat requirements of wildlife species of interest.

2. Understand your forest holding and adjacent ownerships to judge the area's habitat suitability for species of interest. A site visit by a Master Forest Owner/COVERTS volunteer can be a big help at this stage of planning.

3. Identify habitat-limiting factors that seem to be restricting population growth

of desired wildlife species.

4. Start with relatively sure-fire, low-input management practices to gain confidence.

5. As practices become more complex and demanding, learn to work with nature toward achieving your goals.

6. Plan and work diligently toward achieving successful regeneration, as changes in vegetation composition will influence your forest for decades.

7. Set goals that are compatible and complementary, such as timber harvests that create new habitat for desirable wildlife species and provide other attributes such as access roads, scenic view, wildlife-observation locations, and funds for management equipment.

#### Suggested References\*

Bluebirds in New York. Silverman, B.G. and M.E. Krasny. 1989. 4-H Member's Guide. 21pp. Cornell Cooperative Extension, Dept. of Natural Resources, Fernow Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853. \$2.50. (607/255-2814)

Enhancing Wildlife Habitat: A practical guide for forest landowners. Hobson, S.S., J.S. Barclay, and S.H. Broderick. 1993. NRAES-64. 172pp. NE Reg. Agr. Eng. Service, Cornell Cooperative Extension, 152 Riley-Robb Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853. \$30.00. (607/255-7654)

Enhancement of Wildlife Habitat on Private Lands. Decker, D.J. and J.W. Kelley. 1998 (rev.). IB #181. 42pp. Cornell Cooperative Extension, Distribution Center, Ithaca, NY 14850. \$7.50 (607/255-2080)

Managing Small Woodlands for Wildlife. Gutierrez, R.J., D.J. Decker, R.A. Howard, Jr., and J.P. Lassoie. 1987. IB #157. 32pp. Cornell Cooperative Extension, Distribution Center, Ithaca, NY 14850. \$3.00. (607/255-2080)

Managing Woodlands for Wildlife. Baughman, M., J. Kitts, and L. Wenner. 1993. Item#VH-6214-GG. 24-min. video. Univ. Minn. Extension Service Dist. Center, 20 Coffey Hall, 1320 Eckles Ave, St. Paul, MN 55108-6069. \$35.50. (1-800/876-8636 or 612/625-8173)

Wildlife Notebook: Sketches of selected wildlife in New York. Decker, D.J. 1988. IB #210. 76pp. Cornell Cooperative Extension, Distribution Center, Ithaca, NY 14850. \$5.50. (607/255-2080)

Wildlife and Timber from Private Lands: A landowner's guide to planning. Decker, D.J., J.W. Kelley, T. Seamans, and R. Roth. 1988. IB #193. 55pp. Cornell Cooperative Extension, Distribution Center, Ithaca, NY 14850. \$5.50. (607/255-2080)

\*Add appropriate tax to NY publications. Make checks payable to either "Cornell University" or "University of Minnesota". ▲

# LOCUST BORER MAY BE IN YOUR BACKYARD

By Douglas C. Allen

I drove by a patch of black locust not too long ago and noticed the telltale signs of a locust borer infestation.

As many readers may know, this tree belongs to the legume family and, therefore, is a nitrogen fixer. That is, certain

wood in late summer and early fall. They feed on goldenrod pollen. After mating, females deposit large, bright white eggs in bark crevices. Young larvae emerge from the egg before leaf fall and burrow into the corky inner bark where each larva excavates a small depression within which it will overwinter.

Larvae begin moving into the sapwood as soon as warm weather arrives in spring, about the time locust buds begin to swell. This activity creates wet spots on the bark where sap oozes from entrance holes. Brownish, sawdust-like particles also appear around these small openings. When larvae get bigger, conspicuous piles of granular frass (a mixture of fecal material and fine wood chips) are produced as the insects bore into the trunk. Frass soon accumulates in bark furrows and at the base of the tree (Fig. 3). This material is bright white when the insect is working in sapwood early in the season but turns yellowish as soon as larvae penetrate heartwood. The completed gallery is 0.8 to 1.25 inches wide and 5.0 to 6.0 inches long.



Fig. 1. Stand of black locust damaged by locust borer.

Maybe you, also, have seen stands of sapling and pole size black locust with several dead stems and trees with broken tops, limbs or trunks. Close inspection reveals scarred, deformed wood with exposed remains of many larval galleries. The nature of the damage following repeated attacks by locust borer makes the host especially susceptible to "wind snap". The end result is a stand of black locust that looks like it was raked by a windstorm (Fig. 1).

**Importance of Black Locust** – Though not a commercial timber species, black locust plays an important role in our land-

bacteria associated with its roots are capable of producing this essential element. The end result is that black locust can do well on nitrogen poor sites where most tree species will not thrive. In addition to these beneficial bacteria, locust has a shallow, spreading root system that is especially good at binding soil. Because of these two characteristics, this tree often is planted on nutritionally poor soils, especially sites with a potential for erosion typical of reclamation areas or embankments where vegetation is needed to hold soil in place.

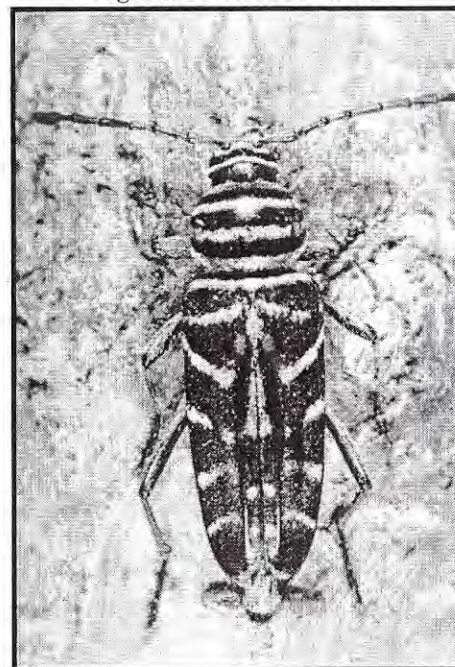
Also, locust wood is very decay resistant and a popular source of fence posts in rural areas. Posts and poles containing many borer galleries are weakened and may decay more rapidly than solid wood, because rain water is able to enter through exposed remnants of larval galleries.

**The Insect** – Adults are dull black beetles 0.5 to 0.8 inches long with several bright yellow bands on the back (Fig. 2). The full grown larva is segmented, white, worm-like, and 0.8 to 1.0 inches long with well developed, dark colored mouthparts.

**Biology** – Beetles emerge from infested

**Damage** – When tree trunks become riddled with galleries (Fig. 4), they are easily broken by the wind. Mortality occurs when both the trunk and major branches are infested and the tree begins to break up.

Fig. 2. Locust borer adult.



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Fig. 3. Frass (arrows) produced by locust borer larvae.

**Managing the Problem** – It is unlikely that many landowners would ever attempt to grow black locust on a large scale. However, in addition to its use in erosion control and for fencing, it has some value for wildlife and certainly adds diversity to the landscape. As with many woodborer problems, the key to minimizing damage by this insect is to keep the host vigorous. Black locust does best on rich, loamy soils or soils of limestone origin. To retain a healthy stand of locust on your property, it makes sense to encourage it on good sites. The borer favors trees growing on poor sites

Fig. 4. Locust stem riddled with borer



because, even though locust is capable of providing its own nitrogen supply, it is stressed by lack of other nutrients and inadequate moisture. Black locust under stress is especially attractive to the beetle. A population can be kept in check, at least temporarily, by removing and destroying infested material as soon as signs of boring become evident.

A special thank you to Dr. John B. Simeone, forest entomologist and Professor Emeritus, SUNY ESF, for the slides used to produce these photographs. ▲

*This is the 39th in the series of articles contributed by Dr. Allen, Professor of Entomology at SUNY-ESF. Reprints of this and the complete series are available from NYFOA, phone Debbie Gill at 800-836-3566.*

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# O, THE BUZZIN' OF THE BEES...

By Jane Sorensen Lord, PhD, OTR, NR

When I left for New York City on a Monday morning I noticed the tulip tree buds were about to burst open.

They were open when I returned Wednesday about six. And the girls were there!



I ran over to the hives and, sure enough, pollen baskets on the arriving bees were packed with the distinctive orange pollen of the tulip blossoms.

I'll bet if you looked at your tulip poplars you wouldn't see any honey bees.

Ninety percent of wild American honeybees have died off. Half of the domestic bees died, too, in spite of aggressive treatment for the *varroa mite* which entered the country on Asian bees in 1987.

If you buy honey, you've noticed a price rise. And if you have an orchard you've probably been nursing ulcers!

Eighty percent of our food crop needs pollination to set fruit or seeds.

Farmers are hiring beekeepers to bring over healthy hives to ensure crop success. Although there are many types of solitary bees who randomly pollinate, only the social honey bee, who is getting food for her 80,000+ hive mates and queen, is consistently reliable.

It's a dark day for the small insect who has been on earth for at least 65,000,000 years (carbon dated amber).

The Greek goddess Melissa was turned into a bee. She, and her hive mates saved Zeus, as a child, by stinging off enemies who were trying to kill him. For that effort she was rewarded with the ability to reproduce without a mate.

The first beekeeper was the god Dionysis (a.k.a. Bacchus in Rome). It's likely these two gods drank mead long before they drank grape wine. Some bee keepers think they never even changed to grape wine because mead is so much better!

Honey bees are not native to Australia, the Pacific Islands or North America.

Bees were introduced by our early settlers. The bees were brought in their wild combs to provide an on-going source of hive products for food and healing. Egyptians used honey as a universal healer. The "manna" in the Bible may have been the pollen of the Tamarisk tree.

The Dutch settlers in New Amsterdam probably were the first to introduce the German species of honey bee to America. They put wild hives in skeps, or honey baskets, sealed them, carried them in ships then placed them in their gardens. They bees likely stayed pretty close to home, with the plants brought over too. The new plants and trees produced entomophile pollen which needed distribution by pollinators.

The native American plants and trees produce anemophile pollen which distributes by the wind. And give great hay fever.

As early settlers introduced more and more plants and trees, the bees ranged further from their gardens and swarmed into the wild. With the invention of the modern bee hive in the 1800's the swarms grew larger. Honeybees went everywhere.

Pesticides, herbicides, acid rain, development and pollution took their toll on bees and their habitat. But the *varroa mite*, a bee-born pest clobbered them like the cold virus carried by early European explorers decimated the American Indians, or Dutch Elm disease—our native elms.

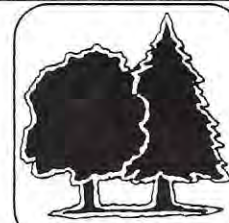
Since pollination allows gene swapping, adding strength to plants and trees I must wonder if the paucity of honeybees is impacting forest health. Could the forest dam-

age represented by canker on tulip trees, the tent caterpillars on black cherry, the thrip on sugar maple be exacerbated by limited pollination?

Should forest owners be encouraged to start bee-keeping as herb gardeners have been?

My tulip tree still seems to be smiling. She held her flowers days longer than I've ever seen before in spite of unseasonable withering heat and thunder storms. I think she was tickled by the bees. ▲

*Dr. Jane and her husband, Gordon, have been Tree Farmers since 1986 and master Forest Owners since 1993. In her work as an occupational therapist and naturopath she takes care of people. Her e-mail address is: drjane@interserv.com.*



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The following promotional items especially designed for NYFOA may be obtained from Deborah Gill, Administrative Secretary; PO Box 180, Fairport, NY 14450; 1-800/836-3566 or directly from and with support for your local chapter:

Shoulder Patches	\$2.00	50% Cotton T-Shirts	\$8.00
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**WOODLOT CALENDAR**

- Jul 11:** SAC; Woodswalk; Farrar/Koenig woodlots; 518/747-5958.
- Jul 18:** AFC; Woodswalk, State Forest; East Otto; 716/676-2349.
- Jul 23, 24, & 25:** 1998 NYS Maple Tour; Norwich; Gerald Cushman at (607) 335-1209.
- Aug 1:** WFL; Annual Picnic; D. Swanson Farm; 716/247-7069.
- Aug 1:** CCE Forest Owner's Workshop; reg.-7:30AM; Bath; 607/776-9631ex2300.
- Aug 8:** SAC; Annual Picnic; Fullerton's; 802/457-1481; 518/747-5958.
- Aug 9:** CDC; 10AM; Woodswalk; Hans & Joan Kappel's; 518/861-8753.
- Aug 15:** AFC; Annual Picnic & Woodswalk; Allegany State Park; 716/676-2349
- Oct 3,4:** NYFOA's Family Fair; Washington County Fairgrounds.
- Sep 11,12:** NYFOA's Annual Fall Meeting; Kanona; 800/835-3566.