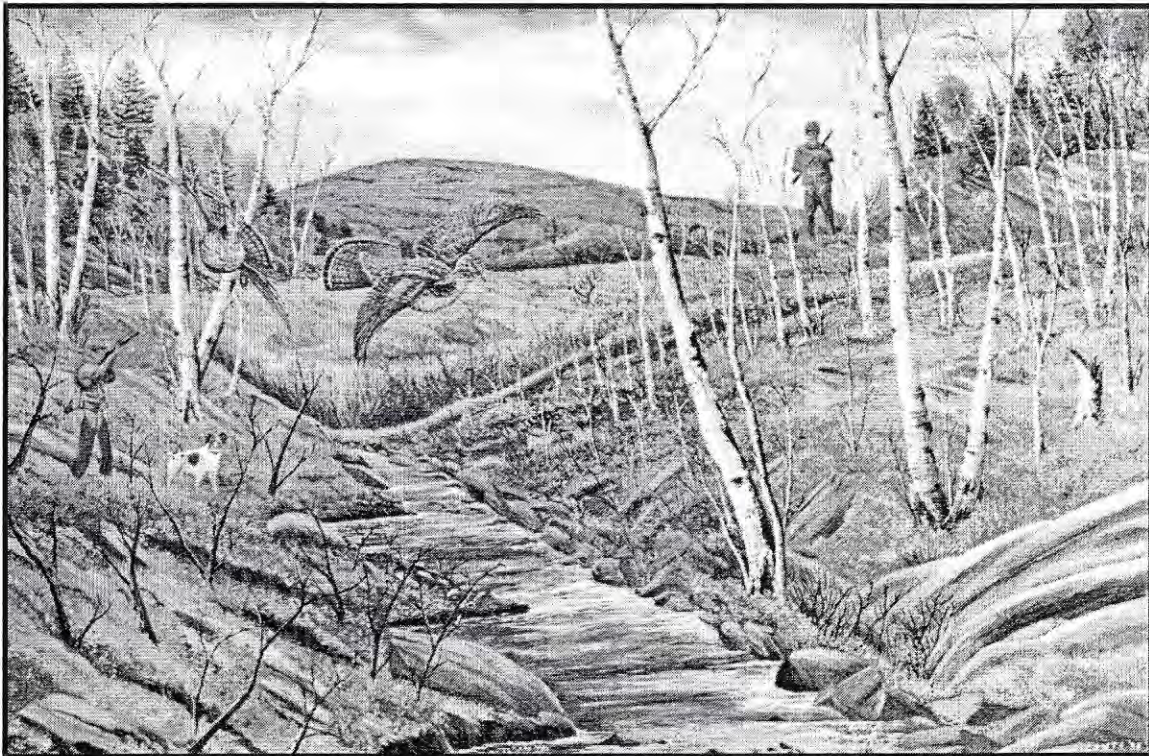


The New York

FOREST OWNER

A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association

September/October 1998



Grousehaven Revisited

Mourningcloak Butterfly

Maintaining Your Pond (Part III)

At Least The Horse Knew The Ropes

**THE NEW YORK
FOREST OWNERS
ASSOCIATION**

VOL. 36, NO. 5

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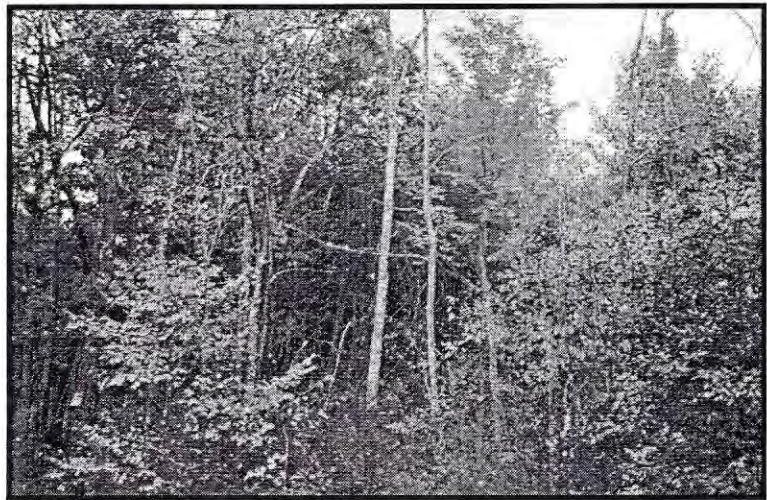
THE OIL PAINTING: "THE DOUBLE AT CAMDEN CREEK"; PAINTED BY ANTHONY J. CONTE. (See Page 8.)

FOREST OWNER

A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association
Editorial Committee: Mary McCarty, Chair., Steve Davison, Betty Densmore, Alan Knight, and Bob Sand,

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 Nov/Dec is October 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.

GROUSEHAVEN



A mixture of hardwoods and aspen. The beauty and diversity of Grousehaven—a unique area for ruffed grouse. (See page 8)

Table Of Contents

President's Message, Jill Cornell 3
Maintaining Your Pond (Part III), Mary Binder 4
Midsummer Musings Of A Forest Owner, Robert Bamber Marshall 7
Grousehaven Revisited, Anthony J. Conte 8
Getting Started With A Timber Sale, Peter J. Smallidge 10
The Evolution Of Our Pond, Elizabeth D. Nichols 12
NYFOA's Forest Tax Survey 13
At Least The Horse Knew The Ropes, Peter S. Levatich 14
Guest Editorial, Keith A. Argow 17
ASK A FORESTER, Stephen Davison 18
Purple Loosetrife, John S. Braubitz 19
Mourningcloak Butterfly, Douglas C. Allen 20
What's Good For The Goose..., Jane Sorensen Lord 22

President's Message

By Jill Cornell

I also hope to see you at our **Fall Meeting September 11th and 12 in Kanona** which is 3 miles north of Bath. The Friday night panel of speakers: **Jim Contino** (Champion International), **Brian Knox** (Coastal Lumber) and **Ken Kasprzyk** (DEC) will be very interesting. Saturday's woodswalks in the nearby state forests with Senior forester **Mark Keister** will give you some new ideas and lots of information. **Just phone Debbie at 800-836-3566 to make reservations ASAP.**

I can't resist this opportunity to do an ad for the **Family Forest Fair**. This is probably the last year it will be in northeastern NY. And this year it will be even bigger and better than last year. So plan a family trip to Washington County for **October 3rd and 4th**. **The Washington County Fairgrounds are in Greenwich** and only 15 miles due east from Saratoga. It is one of NY's beautiful areas, and the Fair will have something for everyone. One whole building is dedicated to activities for children. On site will be vendors of wood products, crafts, art work, equipment for working in the woods. There will be exhibits of all kinds of forestry related information, and on Saturday, John Adler will demonstrate tree felling techniques and chainsaw safety. Also on Saturday, the Woodsmen's Team from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry will demonstrate old time lumberjack techniques. On Sunday,

NIGHT IN CONCERT

By Dorothy Darling

Sometimes the night makes music
but not everyone can hear;
there are no violins or drums or horns
but around and about through the sphere
subtle and intimate rhythms are borne.

In summer fireflies light the sound
but so briefly not all can see;
there are no footlights or spotlights glowing,
but this is part of nature's harmony,
crescendos in light, coming and going.

In winter the winds take up the symphony
but not all who listen will hear;
there are no woodwinds leaping to the eye,
and ears must be intent, hearts drawn near
if night is caught in concert down the sky.



Jill Cornell

there will be a professional Lumberjack (and Lumbeijill) Competition. Colleges with natural resource and forestry programs will be available to meet with prospective students and their parents. Featured will be live birds of prey, rattlesnakes, apple variety tastings, tree planting demonstrations, portable sawmill demonstrations, canoe safety, woods herbs and recipes, flute making, archery shooting gallery, Christmas Tree tips, maple products, hunting, fishing, hiking information, and much more. Lots of door prizes too!

While you are there having a good time, please consider having the fair in your region. The Department of Environmental Conservation, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Natural Resource Conservation Service, County Soil and Water Districts, Resource Conservation and Development agencies and area forest industry will lend a hand, and you'll meet nice, interesting people. You'll get to know more about all those resources. At the same time you'll be spreading the word about New York's spectacular, renewable resource and what good management can do for it, both personally for forest owners, but also for the environment.

Five years ago the Hudsons and the Minerds with the Central NY Chapter started the Fair. How about having the sixth year in your area? ▲

A TAX DEDUCTION

By Ron Pedersen, Vice President

NYFOA has established **New York Woodland Stewards, Inc.** as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable corporation to accept contributions to promote sound forest management by private landowners. Contributions to New York Woodland Stewards are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

You may now renew your membership or newly join by check payable to New York Forest Owners Association, OR, if you prefer, by check payable to New York Woodland Stewards, Inc. (NYWS), including any contribution in excess of your NYFOA membership.

The first \$20 of your check to New York Woodland Stewards, Inc. (or the first \$25 for family membership) will purchase your NYFOA membership. Additional tax deductible contributions will further our efforts to reach and educate private woodland owners about wise use of forest resources.

Thank you for supporting wise forest resource use by private landowners. ▲

NYFOA



1998

MAINTAINING YOUR POND (Part III)

By Mary Binder

A man-made pond will do what comes naturally. It will slowly revert to a wetland. This process, known as eutrophication, is the method by which ponds age. It will silt-in over time, grow pond weeds, algae, and cattails. Eventually it will become a very shallow, warm water wetland. The pond owner must be aware that it is impossible to completely avoid this natural conversion; however, it is possible to slow the progress.

General Maintenance

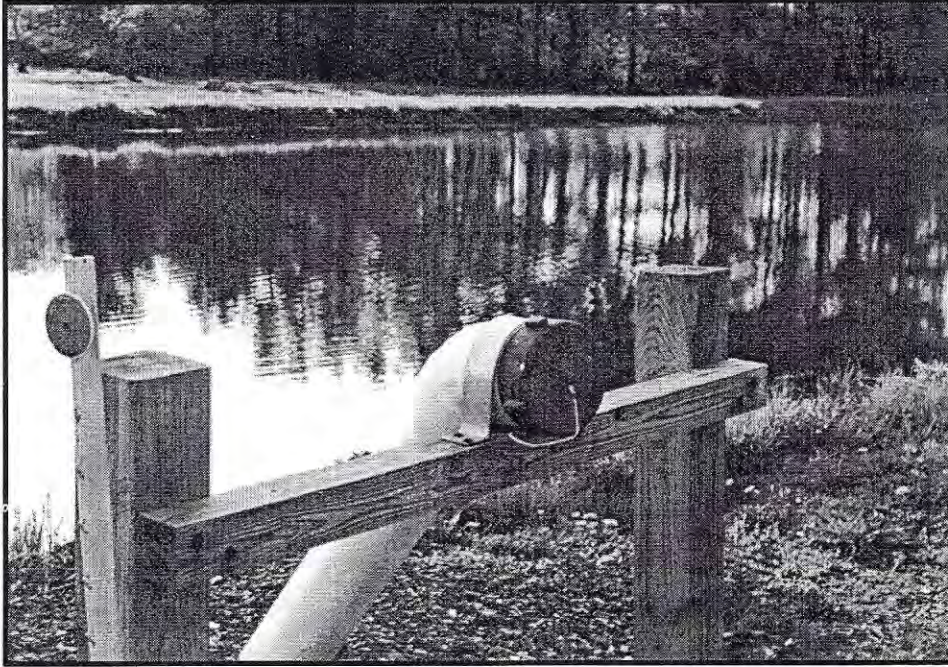
The key to reducing pond weeds is to reduce or eliminate the amount of organic material that enters the pond. Anything that decays in a pond is organic. Soil caused by erosion, grass clippings, chemical and natural fertilizers, and leaves from neighboring trees can all contribute to the aging of a pond.

Eutrophication can be slowed by mowing around your pond, especially the dam. You want to keep trees and shrubs from seeding in on the dam because tree roots can provide a channel for impounded water to leak. Direct the mower away from the pond, so clippings do not go into the pond. Mowing around the pond edge will also remove muskrat and groundhog habitat. These burrowing animals can also provide a means for water to leave your pond. Should you see holes along the pond edge, the animals should be trapped and removed from the property.

If a farm livestock operation is located up-hill from the pond, it is recommended that a tile drain and/or diversion ditch be installed to direct any subsurface or surface runoff away from the pond.

Another pond maintenance chore is to inspect the pond inlets, outlets, and clean all trashracks. If you have a valve to con-

trol the flow of water at the outlet, it should be worked regularly to keep it lubricated. You should also monitor the pond for new weeds and algae. You should try to identify them, so that if necessary, you can treat them for removal.



A typical dry hydrant. Note support made for the pipe.

ALGAE AND POND WEED CONTROL

Ponds have three basic types of vascular plants: submergents, emergents and floating plants. Submergents have all of their leaves and stems below the water, emergent plants have stems and leaves that grow above the water, and floating plants have their leaves float on the surface of the water. Floaters such as waterlilies and duckweed are quite common. There are also three types of algae: plankton, filamentous and macroscopic. Plankton are very tiny plants that form the foundation of the pond food chain. If their numbers are too high, plankton may cause a green, brown, or reddish-brown algae bloom. This usually occurs in summer when pond water is warmer. A blue-green algae bloom can be poisonous.

Filamentous algae grows in long green strands and may form floating mats. It is more affectionately referred to as "pond scum". In this article, references to pond weeds also include algae.

As you drive the countryside you may notice that some ponds are infested with weeds and others appear completely clear. A clear pond usually involves some hard work and management on the part of the landowner. Pond weeds can be kept in

check, but the landowner needs to know what methods are available and what will suit his needs and lifestyle. The goal is not to eliminate all pond weeds, but to allow for recreational use. A pond completely void of weeds will become a sterile environment. The following are some control methods available to the pond owner.

Physical removal: Many pond owners remove pond weeds themselves. I've seen creative removal devices crafted out of old bed springs.

The springs are dragged by boat or by hand. It is best to remove pond weeds before they go to seed, to discourage next season's crop. Pond weeds make excellent compost. Remove algae, duckweed and watermeal on a windy day when the floating weeds have blown to one side of the pond. Cattails, although great for wildlife habitat, can take over a pond if left unchecked. Cutting the stems just below the water level will control them, if repeated often enough.

Although physical removal is inexpensive, it can be backbreaking. On the positive side, you do not have to worry about the effect of chemicals on your watershed or well, and the risk of poisoning children, animals, and fish is also eliminated.

Draining the pond: A pond with a heavy weed infestation can be completely drained in the fall and allowed to sit empty all winter. The cold temperatures will kill the pond weeds. The pond can be filled back up again during the spring rains. Since this method will kill all fish, it is only used as a last resort.

Triploid Grass Carp: Since the early 1990's, New York State has been using sterile grass carp very successfully to treat ponds. They will only eat certain types of pond weeds, so identification is critical. They have been sterilized to ensure that if accidentally released in waterways they will not reproduce. These fish live from 5 to 7 years, and have been known to get very large.

A permit is needed from NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to stock these fish. Your local office can give you more information.

Using grass carp to treat your pond weed problem can be fun, relatively inexpensive and effective. There is no need to worry about chemicals; however, there may be a need to restock since the fish do eventually die.

Aeration: The use of submersed or fountain type pumps to add oxygen to the water has been used by fish farms for years. Added oxygen helps fish thrive and aides in vegetation decay.

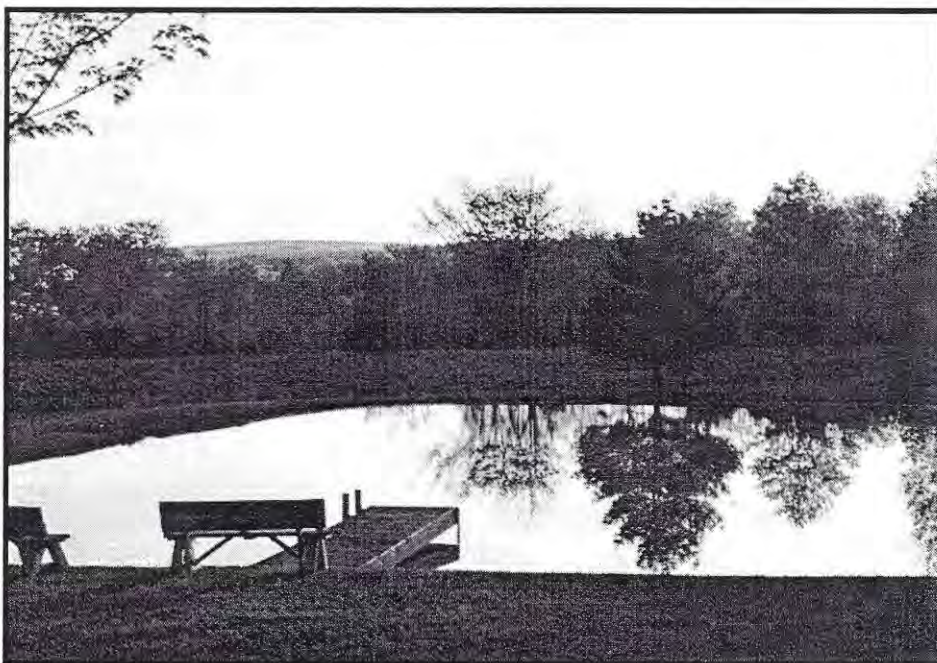
The cost and maintenance of the equipment must be added into the equation. I have heard of people being electrocuted while swimming too close to the pump. Also caution must be taken while running the aerator during hot weather (this is usually when pond weeds are at their worst). It can increase the water temperature resulting in fish-kill, especially temperature sensitive trout. Running the aerator on cloudy days or at night during the summer may help.

Pondweed plantings: Many nurseries now sell beautiful wetland plants to put in backyard watergardens. Be careful what you "let loose" in your pond. A watergarden is a self contained structure, but a pond can easily advance beyond your control.

Chemical treatment: Many chemicals existing in today's market, can with proper use, treat specific plant species causing

problems in your pond. Again, it is important to identify what pond weeds you have so you can use the proper chemical to treat it. There is also a non-toxic chemical that simply dyes your pond a dark shade of green with the theory that it will block sunlight to the pond weeds and kill them.

A permit is needed from the NYS De-



Ponds provide hours of tranquil scenery, as well as an abundance of wildlife habitat. This pond is located in Westerlo.

partment of Environmental Conservation for an individual landowner to purchase the chemicals to treat their pond.

Chemical treatment can be easy and very convenient, but the cost can mount as the years pass. Always follow label recommendations when applying aquatic pesticides. Over-application can cause fish-kills. Fish-kills can also be caused by treating a large, heavily infested pond all at once. It may not be the chemical killing the fish, but the fact that all the weeds die at once. When weeds decay, they use up oxygen. This can cause oxygen depletion in the pond, causing the fish to die. This type of death in a pond is called "summer kill". Some chemical labels recommend only treating parts of the ponds and waiting a certain amount of time before treating the rest.

Pond Safety

The landowner cannot be completely protected against liability in case of an accident around a pond, but posting warning signs and providing adequate safety measures may prevent most accidents from occurring.

Placing posted signs on your property or around your pond may discourage strangers from using the pond. For friends and family, a ladder or plank hung on a tree can provide for a rescue in water and over ice. A life ring, with 100 feet of rope, hung on a nearby tree or post can be used by even a small child. Warning signs noting steep slopes, drop-offs, and pipe intakes will also help.

Installing a dry hydrant, (photo 1), or non-pressurized pipe into your pond to provide a suction line for fire trucks may not only save you money on fire insurance, but it may also save your house or your life. Be sure to check with the fire company serving your district so the hydrant parts will be compatible with their equipment. Make sure the access road is large enough for firefighting equipment, and that it is kept plowed in winter. Keep area around the hydrant strainer

in the pond free of submerged weeds. Be sure to install the intake below the average frost free zone (3-4 feet in New York), and that your pond is a dependable, year-round, non-fluctuating water source.

Fish Stocking

Most landowners stock trout or bass in their pond. The water temperature of your pond, in its coldest location, will help you determine what you can successfully stock.

Trout will survive in water 33° to 75°F, but do best and have less disease problems in 50° to 65°F water. The coldest part of the pond is in the deepest part of your pond, or around areas where there are springs. Trout will usually not reproduce in ponds, so it may be necessary to restock.

Stocking rates in the spring are 500-700 trout per surface acre, of 2-4 inch fingerlings.

Rainbow and Brook trout eat insects, while brown trout are carnivorous and will eat smaller fish and frogs. There is no need to feed your trout, since there is plenty of native feed already existing in your pond.

It is a thrill, however, to watch the trout boil to the surface as you throw in pellet feed. Trout should be stocked with no other species of fish, especially bass, as the bass will eat smaller trout. To keep smaller trout from starving, larger fish should be fished out.

Bass will survive in higher temperature ponds. They will reproduce, but do require a forage fish, since they are carnivorous. Bass will even cannibalize if there is not enough forage.

Stocking rates are 20 bass per surface acre. Fathead minnows or bluegills are the usual species of forage fished stocked at the same time as the bass. Minnows are stocked at a rate of 25 for each bass stocked. Bluegills are stocked at 5 for each bass.

The key to successful bass management is to provide the habitat for the forage fish to survive and reproduce. They need weeds and piles of rock for escape areas.

Bass ponds must also be fished to remove the larger fish. This will allow the smaller fish to grow and allow the forage fish to reproduce and prosper.

Winterkill

"Winterkill" is the phenomenon where fish die in droves due to lack of oxygen, just as in summerkill. Winterkill occurs when deep snow piles on top of the pond, allowing little or no sunlight to reach pond weeds. Due to the lack of sunlight the pond weeds die, causing oxygen depletion as they decay. This lack of oxygen will kill the fish. Most winterkills do not become obvious until the pond loses its ice cover during a melt, then you begin to see the dead fish.

To keep this from happening, a few paths shoveled along the center of the pond will allow enough sunlight to enter the pond. I have also heard that allowing a small log from a tree with thick bark to become frozen in the vertical position of a pond will allow oxygen to penetrate through the bark.

You may want to take a water sample of your pond every few years if you actively swim in it. With the growing concern for water pollution, its worth the small investment for a sample.

Your pond will bring you and your family many years of fun and recreation. With

a little hard work and planning, your pond will continue to provide for that enjoyment for many years to come.

Additional References:

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A Guide to Plants Commonly found in Freshwater Wetlands of New York State, by T. Rawinski, R. Malecki, and L. Mudrak, 1979. ▲

Mary, who lives in Westerlo, with her husband and two boys, is Vice-Chair of NYFOA's Capital District Chapter. She is a graduate of SUNY ESF with experience with the Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Conservation Districts.

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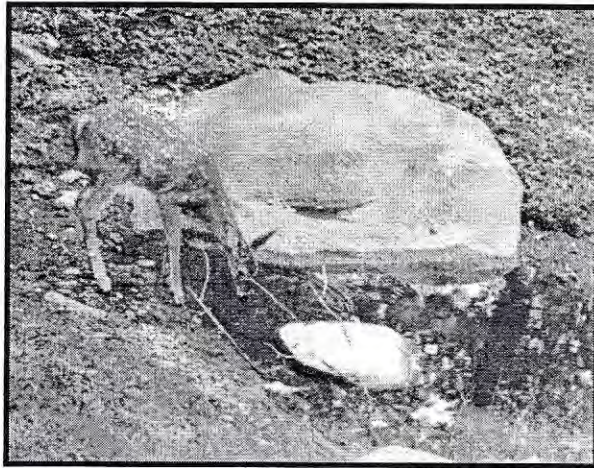
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Midsummer Musings Of A Forest Owner

By Robert Bamber Marshall ©1998

"Please leave a few for my wife" said the forest owner, as he stepped out on the front porch. The two tiny fawns munching the day lily flowers dashed off twenty yards and stopped to look back.. The forest owner went back in the house. The two tiny fawns went back to eat the day lily flowers.

Watching from a window the forest owner wondered at what marvelous wildlife management this would be, if only he purposefully, rather than the previous homeowner, had planted the day lilies! Here were



honey-sweet flowers to attract fawns so close to the house, just when in July new fawns begin to explore their world! Flowers from strong bulbs faithfully returning every year, without annual weeding or protection from anything except possibly squirrels, since the bulbs sprout between many baseball-size rocks. In July only the flowers are eaten. In spring the early fast-growing leaves are half-eaten. This cropping, and somewhat less sunlight, delays our day lilies flowering, a week or two later than most lilies in our county. Day lily flowers last only a few days, so I think they serve best as a deer delicacy. One year the show occurred while weekend houseguests were watching. Since day lilies are native to Eurasia, they are an exotic rather ideal for an environment over-populated with deer. A forester might become famous planting day lilies and promising fawns to eat them!

Did you ever hear of an elected official whose platform promoted less fawns to eat less flowers? Or less deer to eat less of the voters' landscaping and forest regeneration?

If I were running for office, which now at age 80 I expect everybody to believe I am not, one of my platform planks would be more enjoyable hunting and fishing for

more successful hunters and fishermen! Ha! Ha! Laugh, but don't overdo it. Elections are so serious. Here in Westchester, where deer hunting is restricted to archery in November and December, even though I am a conservative Republican, I would win every Democrat archer's vote with a

clear call for archery in October! In my second term that might become September, soon after Labor Day. Every archer who ever failed in November, and has tried pulling his bow string in December,

knows in his shivering bones that our civil rights deserve more respect in Albany! This year we and the NRA will not be disenfranchised by hunting on Election Day! Lose liberty? Maybe by one vote? Vote for me, and never again will Election Day be one of the first days hunting is legal! In the future we will celebrate Columbus Day with a venison dinner. Also I will cut heavily into the Democrat voters whose family members have Lyme Disease. In Westchester, practically the C"apitol of Lyme Disease in America", that will overcome the Democrat's registration advantage. Why should everybody get Lyme Disease before we solve the problem? Westchester is full of the world's most-educated people, who even know what silviculture the United Nations should mandate in all the world's forests. Would anyone expect United Nations delegates from faraway rainforests and faraway mideastern deserts to solve it better? Naturally, here we will solve our local deer problem in our local common sense way! Our archers will not be too cold to shoot accurately in October! ▲

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

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Fairport, New York 14450

GROUSEHAVEN REVISITED

By Anthony J. Conte

Ten years after we began our campaign to create optimum grouse habitat on this Washington County parcel, our success has gone far beyond all expectations.

In 1985 my family was fortunate to acquire 135 acres of land in Washington County. Two years later, we began a major campaign to transform the property

into optimum grouse habitat (see RGS Magazine Jan, Feb, Mar 1990, page 9). We became members of the American Tree Farm system and entered the property in the forest stewardship plan. Under

the guidance of Senior Forester Ron Cadieux, we implemented a plan to create and enhance wildlife habitat on the property with a concentrated effort on the ruffed grouse. To accomplish this goal, we employed tested and proven long term forest stewardship practices. Selection system harvesting was a primary management tool used to sustain growth. A ten year harvesting cycle was utilized to create financing for wildlife habitat improvement. Pioneer stands were clear cut at strategic points to create a three stage or age class diverse habitat and provide brood habitat, feeding areas and mating grounds. The diversity obtained by these practices was augmented by planting wildlife shrubs and trees. Red barberry, quaking aspen, autumn olive and gray and red twig dogwood were the major species utilized. The dogwood species provide dense growth as well as berries that attract both game and song birds. Barberry, autumn olive and aspen also provide shelter and food for birds.

The diverse habitat on Grousehaven includes seeded fields (seeded with high protein clover), aspen stands, white pine

sapling areas, wildlife shrub plantings, oak stands, mature hemlock sidehill stands and northern hardwood mixed forest. Stone walls line the approximately twenty five acres of abandoned fields filled with aspen in various growth stages and wildlife shrubs attract and hold the ruffed grouse. In creating and maintaining this ecosystem in various stages of maturity we did indeed opti-

mize the land's potential as ruffed grouse habitat, and in doing so, we also benefited the white-tailed deer and wild turkeys that inhabit the area.

Early in 1997, we obtained an

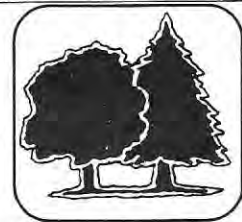
additional fifteen acres of land adjoining Grousehaven on the west side. This brought the total land under management to one hundred and fifty acres. This newly acquired property had its own diverse personality, including the Camden Valley Creek, fields, white pine and hemlock stands (a favorite roosting area for wild turkeys). The acquisition of this additional acreage brought a new dimension to Grousehaven, making it a unique and complete habitat area for the three major wildlife species in the area (ruffed grouse, white-tailed deer and wild turkeys). The creek area, with its alders and willows also attracts woodcock and puddle ducks. Our future plans include planting red twig dogwood along the creek to protect against soil erosion, to supply food in the form of berries and to provide cover with its dense growth.

It is our intention to continue to use any and all forest management techniques to enhance and maintain a diverse habitat for wildlife throughout this property, with ruffed grouse being our top priority. My greatest return on the investment of time

and money in Grousehaven occurred in November of 1996. While hunting along the Camden Creek with my son, Charles (another dedicated grouse enthusiast), Britt—my brittany spaniel—locked up solid and a pair of grouse exploded along the creek. I downed both birds and finally achieved my first double on grouse after thirty-six years - and it happened at Grousehaven. What a thrill! I created the oil painting, "The Double at Camden Creek" to commemorate this special moment in time. In closing, I must thank Senior Forester Ron Cadieux. His vision, expertise and creativity helped transform this one hundred fifty acres in Washington County into a special area for ruffed grouse, called—Grousehaven! ▲



Son Charles, congratulates Anthony J. Conte with Britt and the double at Camden Creek. A treasured moment at Grousehaven!



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Profile: NYS DEC Deputy Commissioner of Natural Resources —Peter Duncan

By Jill Cornell

When I first met Peter Duncan in August 1997 it was not only an interesting and friendly experience, I came away thinking: Hooray! We have a real winner here at the helm! Pete had been President of Pennsylvania Forestry Association (the equivalent of NYFOA in PA.), 1975-77, and he understood what NYFOA was all about.

His background prior to becoming Deputy Commissioner of Natural Resources for DEC. is rich in training and experience. He has a BA from Penn. State in Park and Recreation Administration, and a certificate from Harvard for a program in state and local government from the John F. Kennedy School of Government. Pete began his career as a park naturalist and interpretive service supervisor with the Arlington County, Virginia Dept. of Environmental Affairs.

He served in the Army during the Vietnamese War and was awarded two medals for his service there.

Natural Resource positions that he has filled include: heading the PA Department of Environmental Resources where he managed 3,100 employees and a \$175 million budget; Executive Director of the PA Game Commission, managing 1.4 million acres of public recreation lands; and consultant to the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Commissioner John P. Cahill said it well: "Peter Duncan has the skills, expertise and experience needed to be DEC's Deputy Commissioner for Natural Resources. He is a widely respected professional who

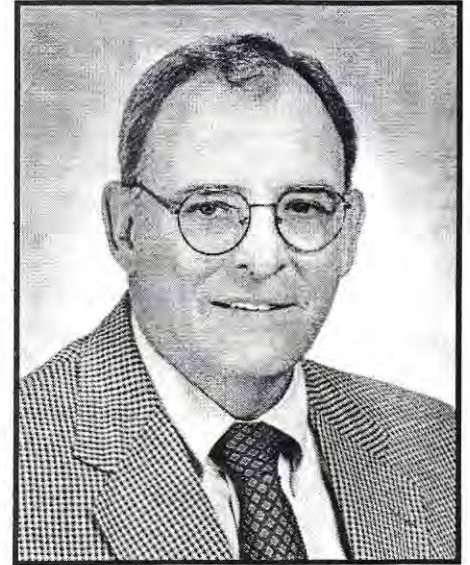
brings to the job extensive management experience.. broad knowledge of both natural resources and environmental quality protection initiatives. and a proven ability to work on behalf of the environment with citizens, sporting organizations, fish and wildlife experts, governments and businesses."

At NYS DEC Pete manages over 200 employees, and a \$67 million budget for the Division of Lands and Forests, Fish and Wildlife, and Marine and Mineral Resources.

Pete lives in Watervliet with his wife Becky. They have two sons, Matthew and Andrew.

On the lighter side. Pete enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking and golf.

Peter Duncan is wonderful choice for NYS DEC, and for NYFOA'ns! ▲



Peter Duncan

NYS SUPPORTS AMERICAN CHESTNUT RESEARCH

By Charles Maynard

In a nut shell:

We received a State grant of \$150,000 per year for 3 years to fund the American Chestnut Research and Restoration Project. The Co-Investigators on the project are Dr. William Powell and me. It is a joint project between the Faculty of Forestry and the Faculty of Environmental and Forest Biology.

We started up on July 1 by hiring Dr. Zizhuo Xing as a Research Associate and Ms. Sharon Bickel as a Technical Support Specialist. We are planning to start two new graduate students in the fall. The first order of business is going to be to establish a number of new chestnut embryos in tissue culture. We will be doing this in early August.

For the last several years, Dr. Powell has been designing new genes much faster than we could transform them into chestnut embryos, so we have a backlog of approximately 6 new gene combinations ready to try out, hence this fall we will be transforming as many of these genes into embryos as we can. We will then begin the long process to regenerate whole plants and test them for blight resistance.

Recent accomplishments include: ▲

We planted the first batch of tissue-cultured American Chestnuts in the field in the spring of '97. They went through the summer and fall just fine. They broke bud this spring and have been growing vigorously all summer. We put out another batch this spring and they are surviving. Overall, our survival rate for field planted chestnuts is about 50%. To our knowledge, these are the first American Chestnut tissue culture propagated trees ever to be field planted.

In terms of the genetic engineering, Dr. Xing has produced genetically transformed shoots in the lab. They are being screened for stable expression of the new genes.

Upcoming Events:

On Saturday, **October 24th**, the College of Environmental Science and Forestry will host the annual meeting of the New York State Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation. The Guest speaker will be Dr. Ross Whaley, President of the College. We will be touring both the molecular biology and tissue culture laboratories and will see the tissue culture field planting. For registration contact Ms. Arlene Wirsig, Treasurer at 716-745-7772. ▲

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GETTING STARTED WITH A TIMBER SALE

By Peter J. Smallidge

Many New York forest owners, from those with 5-acre corner woodlots to large tracts have been exposed to the notion of a timber sale. Some have actively sought a logger while others have been contacted by a logger. A timber sale differs from a yard sale, and there are several strategies that will help land owners interested in selling timber. However, selling timber is a complex process and this article is only a starting point.

Since the early decades of this century when farms began reverting to forests, New York's landscape has become increasingly tree-covered. In recent decades, those even-aged forests that dominate in New York have become mature. At the same time, our demand for forest products has increased. Consequently, with greater supply and greater demand, there are ample opportunities to sell timber from your forest or woodlot, yet many land owners are apprehensive.

*...there are ample opportunities
to sell timber...*

Apprehension often results because most owners don't know the value of their timber and don't want to sell too cheaply; owners fear their woodlot or forest will be ruined as a result of timber harvesting; or owners think that timber harvesting causes environmental damages. While all these fears can be true they can also be easily avoided through some advance planning.



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Ultimately, your goal should be for you or someone working for you to be in control of a timber sale on your property. Sales that are "logger's choice" are seldom in the best interest of the forest owner. Think about it this way: If you have a yard sale or a garage sale and someone offers you \$200 to pick and chose from throughout your house, you would (or should) say no, then why give someone unrestricted access to your timber.

The first step before you consider selling timber is to make sure a timber sale is consistent with your written forest management plan. This is especially true if you are approached by a logger or a timber buyer (sometimes called procurement foresters) to sell your timber. Selling timber too soon may not allow you to achieve your management objectives. Your management plan should describe the timing, location, and intensity for a timber harvest.

Once you decide to sell timber, the next step is to locate competent help from the key players. An initial contact might be a Master Forest Owner (MFO) volunteer through your county association of Cornell Cooperative Extension or a Department of Environmental Conservation professional forester. A MFO volunteer can give you information and help you contact reputable people, while a DEC professional forester can provide the same information plus give you technical advice. You will also likely need to make contact with a consulting or industrial professional forester who will help you find a logger. A forester will also be able to make sure you get a fair price for your timber while representing your interests. Ask for references, and check them, before you begin working with a forester and a logger. Many forest owners find it to their advantage to have their forester mark their timber and then put it out for bids from several reputable loggers. You might not want to select your logger based only on the value of their bid, but also consider whether the logger has participated in the New York State "Trained Logger Certification" program and other evidence of professionalism and commitment to forest stewardship.

Another issue to discuss with your forester before any trees are marked, is how the timber sale meshes with your management objectives. If you are interested in

wildlife, then discuss leaving large mast trees for wild turkey, making small patch cuts and leaving large downed logs for ruffed grouse, or leaving or creating snags for cavity nesting birds. If you are interested in recreation and property access, discuss ways to route the skid and haul roads so you can use them for skiing, hiking, or bird watching. These are a few of the options you can explore to get more than cash from your timber sale.

The next step is for you to discuss with your forester any concerns you have regarding how the timber is harvested and how your forest looks after the harvest. This is important information the forester will need to develop a timber sale contract that reflects your interests. Many of these concerns are commonplace and known as best management practices (BMPs). For example, you will likely want your road system marked in advance of harvesting to minimize damage to the residual trees and to have the fewest number of stream crossing (using bridges or culverts where necessary) to maintain water quality. Other sale contract language may include the condition of the road and landing following the harvest, the payment style and schedule, penalties for harvesting unmarked trees, the height of trees tops left in the woods, and the amount of the performance bond.

Too often poorly planned timber sales take only the best trees or biggest trees and leave behind the poor quality trees to provide seed.

Samples of timber sale contracts are available through the DEC. Read the contracts closely to make sure they meet all your needs. Remember also that the stipulations you add to the timber sale will reduce the amount of money you receive. Require the stipulations that are appropriate, but consider each one carefully. For example, tree tops left in the woods are unsightly to many people, yet lopping tops so they can't be seen is time consuming, dangerous, and costly. By not lopping tops you reduce risk to the loggers, save time and money, provide habitat for some wildlife species, and may protect some tree regeneration from deer browsing.

Additional topics to discuss with your forester and logger are environmental and stewardship concerns. These are important to maintain the health and productivity of your forest and woodlot. If you have "classified wetlands" or streams, special precautions must be taken before harvesting trees in and adjacent to these areas. (Note, as legal restrictions may apply in some situations, consult your DEC forester) Make certain your forester and logger consider the need to encourage the regeneration of desirable tree species. Too often poorly planned timber sales take only the best trees or biggest trees and leave behind the poor quality trees to provide seed. Discuss the time of year that harvesting will occur and the need to avoid skidding trees during the mud season to minimize damage to soils and erosion. Be certain your property boundaries and the harvest area boundaries are clearly marked.

A timber sale will be your signature on the land.

Having a timber sale on your forested property can be an exciting and profitable event that, if done correctly, can increase your ownership enjoyment without reducing the environmental quality of the land

and waters. However, a timber sale is not an activity you should pursue hastily. The actions you take in your forest will be evident for decades and will determine the future benefits you and others receive from your forest. A timber sale will be your signature on the land. Several good brochures and sample timber sale contracts are available through your local office of the DEC and several good publications through your county association of Cornell Cooperative Extension. Good publications are Logging Aesthetics (123NRAES60), the video Biodiversity for Farms and Forests (147VBFFF), Timber Management for Small Woodlands (147IB180), and Cornell Cooperative Extension Conservation Circular volume 21 No. 5 - Guide to Selling Timber. See the publications catalog at <http://www.cce.cornell.edu/publications.catalog/html>

▲ Peter J. Smallidge is the State Extension Forester for the Department of Natural Resources, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University. This article is available from Cornell Cooperative News Service (the series, Forests For Tomorrow) or may be downloaded with others by Dr. Smallidge from:

<http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/forestry/forest2.htm>

Testimony To The Oak

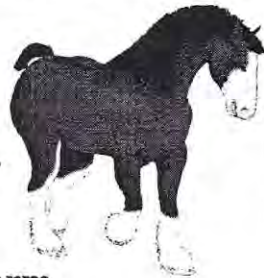
By David Roche

I put another log into the fire,
trying to hold at bay the cold
that presses against the house and
squeezes in through the cracks
making me shiver when
I move away from the stove.

Life for life is the proposition
that makes us equals,
and my hope is that one day
the roots of a future oak
will take nourishment from my remains,
and lift us both into the sky.



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THE EVOLUTION OF OUR POND

By Elizabeth D. Nichols

When we bought our chunk of country land, we inherited a forest management plan from the previous owner (lucky for us!). One of the recommendations was to install a pond on an ideal site near the house. It was a beautiful, boggy meadow that drained into the swamp below it. It was mucky to walk through, and standing water in the clay underfoot made a perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes. The drifts of flowers seen through a stand of mature poplars (or "popples", as they are called locally) included boneset, Joe-pye weed and jewel-weed.

Deciding to put in a pond was difficult, knowing we would be responsible for changing the landscape permanently, and we discovered that a permit would be necessary because our wetlands were under federal protection. We hired **Wayne Underwood**, in Washington County, who was experienced at pond construction, and mapped out a design that

would not affect the wetlands adversely. Rather, two gradually sloping sides would provide wildlife access to the pond, and a long rock spillway would drain into the remaining wet meadow. Our permit was approved, and construction began.

First, Wayne cleared the meadow of all brush and trees. He piled the rocks from an ancient stone fence aside to use later for the spillway. Then he pushed the clay bottom into a dike on the lower slope (Natural sloping on the other three sides was left as it was.). Eventually the dike was about 121 ft. wide and 180 ft. long. At the far end he put in the spillway. As Wayne scraped the clay with his excavator, he hit shale, and was concerned about springing a leak. Well, he did, but rather than drain out, the water started oozing in. Before his work was completed, the kids were already swimming in chest-high water. (Okay! I admit it! So were the parents...) The final touch was a planting of clover and conservation mix along the dike and disturbed areas.

Next came the fun part: watching the pond fill up from natural springs along the bottom. Fine, silty bubbles would gurgle out of the ground and water trickle out. Eventually the pond's surface was 180

ft.x100 ft., and over 12 ft. deep in the middle.

The first inhabitants were frogs, who appeared and laid eggs immediately. (The family counting game's record of frogs around the edges is 130.) Then came the raccoons to eat the frogs, and the great blue heron to eat the tadpoles. The children became well-versed in pond ecology, holding dragonflies as their new wings dried,

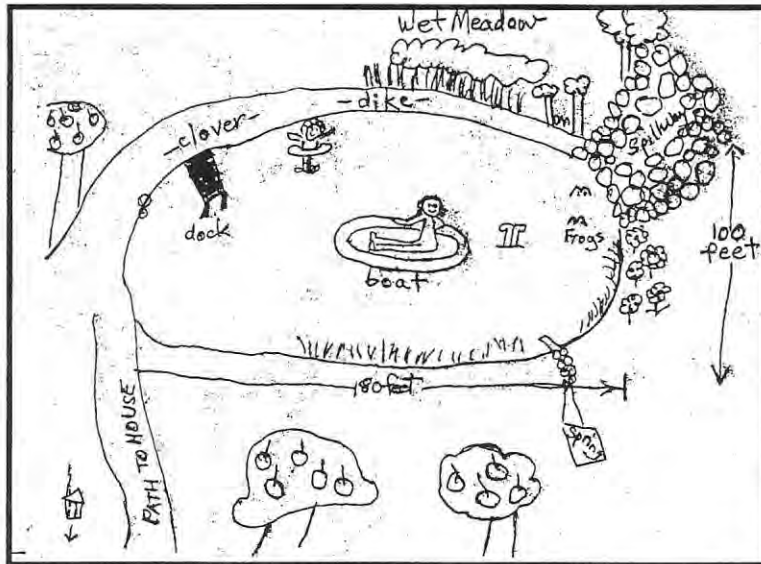
keep the clover mowed. A drift of buttercups established itself so well on one side that our forester thought I'd planted them. I did plant a few day lilies, bee-balm and tansy in spots, and yellow iris in the water. They look like they've always been there. Our daughter, Lexy, (who did the accompanying sketch when she was eight) found an arrowhead on the dike. Both girls are good swimmers now, and we all use the

pond like a lap-size pool all summer long. We've had the good fortune to teach two inner city children how to swim as well. In late winter we listen to the ice groan on the surface as it melts. In the fall the aspens on the far side create marvelous reflections. Binoculars sit close to the window facing the pond, for there's always something to observe.

Any time we make changes to our landscape, it can be a little scary. In this instance, we actually added variety to our wildlife habitat, enhanced the beauty and value of our home, and created a wonderful "science lab" for our children to

witness the evolution of a pond. (And what a GREAT swimming hole.) ▲

Elizabeth Nichols is the Newsletter Editor for NYFOA's Lower Hudson Chapter.



identifying giant diving beetles, mayfly larva, and other insects, caring for sickly baby painted turtles and identifying them by their markings, and raising frogs. They know the mallards, wood ducks, hooded mergansers, and other ducks, and have been yelled at by a territorial red-winged blackbird. Deer come at night to browse and drink. Our only unwelcome guest is the muskrat, who moved in after cattails established themselves. We are eradicating them by shooting them, destroying their feeding lodges, and pulling up the cattails, forcing them to feed in the swamp. Keeping the grass mowed makes them more vulnerable to predators, like the red-tail hawk who has made a meal or two at the pond.

In dry years the water goes down as much as four feet, but cold springs still run underwater. In wet years the water is clear enough to see the bottom. We haven't stocked with fish yet, although it is an option.

We removed the poplar grove, which reduced the leaves in the pond and gives us a great view from the house. (Trees should be 50' away to keep a pond from "mucking up".) We topped our nearby apple trees, making the deer even happier, and try to

ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR

The Western Finger Lakes Chapter will hold an Estate Planning Seminar for forest owners at the Monroe County Cornell Cooperative Extension Office at Highland Ave., Rochester. Starting at 9:00 AM and ending with Final Questions at 12:00 Noon on *October 10th*, the seminar will feature speakers: **David Colligan** (Attorney-at-Law), **Keith Maynard** (MFO), **Susan Keister** (Consulting Forester) and **David Ianni** (Financial Consultant.) For further information phone **Dale Schaefer** evenings at 716/367-2849 or **Nancy Mount** at 800-724-6258 or 716/223-3996.

Forest Land Property Tax Survey

For the past 6 months NYFOA has participated in a Forest Property Tax Coalition to develop legislative initiatives to address the growing taxation threat facing forest landowners. In support of this coalition, NYFOA is presently gathering statewide information on the taxes paid per acre on undeveloped forest land. We have been unable to gather this information through the NYS Real Property Tax Office and we are turning to the membership for assistance. *Please take time to fill out the survey information below. Please provide the following for any undeveloped forested parcels. The information can be found on your more recent school & property tax bills. Please submit only the information from parcels that are forested and have no buildings.*

Parcel	In 480 or 480-a	County	Town	# Acres	Full Value	Taxable Value	School Tax	Town & County Tax
A								
B								
C								
D								

To maintain confidentiality, please do not include your name or address.

Return to: **Jill Cornell (Tax Survey); NYFOA; 703 Johnsonville Road; Johnsonville, NY 12094**

AND DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR NYFOA'S ANNUAL FALL MEETING, SEPT. 11, 12—Phone 800-836-3566!!!



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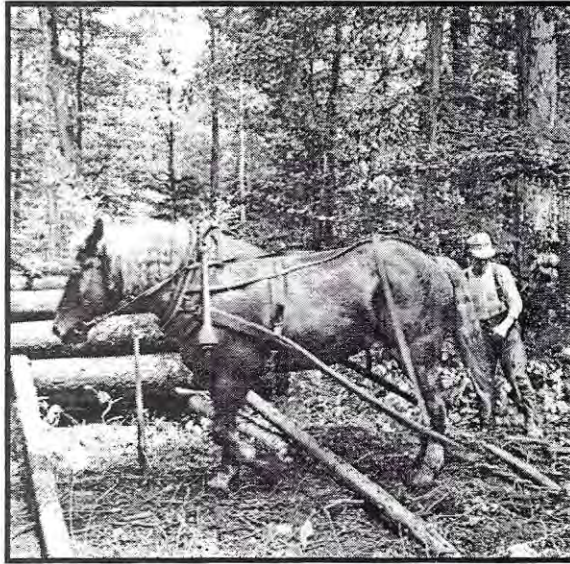
The NATIONAL WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION is a nationwide organization of non-industrial private woodland owners with offices in the Washington, D.C. area. Membership includes landowners in all 50 states. NWOA is affiliated with state and county woodland owner associations throughout the United States.

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—Keith A. Argow, Publisher

"Informed woodland owners—our best protection"



An old timer shows the author and his partner how to be Adirondack loggers in the early 1950s. The horse already knows what to do.

At Least the Horse Knew the Ropes

By Peter S. Levatich

I don't remember the name of our horse. He was a remarkable beast and certainly the most experienced member of our team. He belonged to the Company. They showed us how to use him, how they wanted our logs skidded and rolled up into a neat pile at the landing; and walked away. They knew what would happen but didn't tell us.

We gingerly took the reins and led the horse to the first 13' 4" log, turned him

around, drove the claws at the end of the short chains into the logs and led him along the path to the skid pile. We unhitched him there; turned him around and—surprise!—he started up and walked all by himself back to the remaining logs and stopped at just the right spot to be turned around.

We could hardly believe it! We tied his reins on his back, hitched up new logs, patted him on his behind and, sure enough, he would walk down the path and stop in ex-

actly the right spot at the skid pile. A fantastic co-worker!

Thereafter, Dick spent his time arranging the growing pile of logs so that the butt flares aligned and created the largest possible volume (we were paid based on the volume of the finished log pile) while I hitched up the scattered logs to which our great horse unerringly returned. It was the summer of 1951.

The hurricane of 1950 downed a lot of conifers in the Adirondack State Park in northern New York and the state decided to remove these and cut the slash low because it really was a potential fire hazard. Dick and I came to work for one of the contractors doing the salvage, one Mr. Colvin from Alder Creek, who had a camp east of Woodgate and another further north near McKeever—both inside the Park.

Neither Dick nor I had ever done anything like this before, but we both yearned for outdoor work with good pay: Dick had a bad shoulder and I had just finished a semester at the University of Buffalo while working the night shift at Morrison Steel. It had been very confining.

The company hired us, just as Dick said they would. We bought a used Mall chain saw, which weighed 32 pounds—more than twice what a good professional saw weighs today. It was gear driven and had solid, straight teeth on the chain. Dick had a '41 Chevy. We bought

Dick and the Mall chain saw perched on a downed hemlock and its stump.



double bit axes from the company and were all set.

Camp was a two-mile walk from the end of the paved road, alongside a trail which the dozer had made hauling supplies twice a week. We walked along the "trail" because it was actually a river of black mud 1-2 inches deep. Camp was one long frame building on a new clearing along a fine little stream. On one end was the food storage room and the kitchen. The cook also slept there.

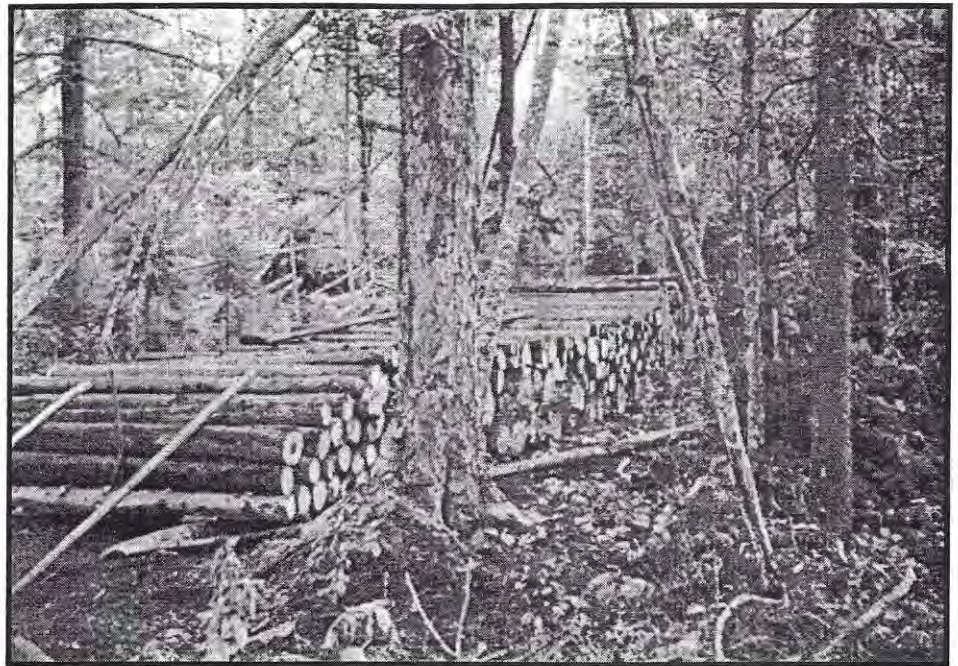
The next section was the dining room. An entry followed, accessible to us lumberjacks from both sides, a sort of mud room. On the other side of the entry was the bunk room with double decker bunks along the walls, tables and long benches down the middle. A separate small building housed the office, the stores and the foreman's quarters.

In August a third building was constructed with one end left open for the five horses, while the blacksmith who tended them had a shop in the other end. The large open space between the buildings contained all loose items and allowed all activity without stirring up too much of the soil which tended to turn into mud.

We worked every day unless it rained hard. It was a pleasant routine: Early breakfast, pack your lunch, fill the water jug (glass, not much plastic yet), and walk with your buddy to your area carrying all gear. Dinner was at 6 p.m. I never had seen so much food on any table before, or since. It was wholesome and varied and we were hungry.

In the evening we would sharpen axes on a large hand cranked whetstone, talk, or do our wash in the creek downstream from camp. Washing downstream was one of the rules because drinking water came from upstream. The other rules were: no alcohol or women. Dick and I turned in early generally being dead tired, but some of the other men sat around a table and played poker late into the night with surprisingly high stakes. They were an interesting lot. Some were professional French Canadian woodsmen, some were school teachers on summer vacation, as well as four Native Americans of the Seneca Nation who were steelworkers in the winter.

I did not quite fit in at first, being a recent immigrant to this country and knowing little useful English. Nor was it long before everyone knew that Dick and I were greenhorns. We received suggestions and learned the way most lumberjacks learn.



Skid pile of 13'4" softwood

Early on, our saw promptly broke down and we had to take a night ride to Syracuse to get it fixed. When we returned there was an official surprise: we were told they had hoped not to see us again as we were not producing enough to cover our keep. Dick negotiated us back into the fold and we proved to them that we could learn fast. We never beat the two Senecas working next to us with "only" a bow saw, however. That saw never stopped and they out-cut us every day.

The work was quite specific as forest work goes. Large diameter spruce and hemlock were uprooted all over by the storm. Lying all in one direction, their tips were

near the ground and the butt ends about four feet in the air. We would cut the limbs with the ax and saw the bole at the butt end, whereupon the stump would flop back into the hole from whence it had come.

The bole was then cut into lengths and the top lopped off so that it was flat on the ground. It's easy if you know how to do it and don't get your saw pinched. The limbing had a trick to it: you first cut into the limb about two inches from the trunk. This made it limp. The second swing with the ax, if well aimed, would cut it off flush with the bark, making it fairly pop off the tree. Being a maverick of sorts, I had questioned the wisdom of a double bit ax when the

Wind-thrown spruce salvage and a "jackpot" consisting of conifers hung up in the crown of a yellow birch in the background.



company sold it to us. Well, they said, it is slimmer, (better for limbing) and the hemlock will break big chips out of any edge, so two edges are better than one. True on both counts. The chipped edge was used for rough work near the soil, while the other was kept razor sharp. I still have mine.

We worked in pairs on 5-6 acre territories periodically assigned to us, alternately limbing and sawing. We especially enjoyed demolishing the "jackpots": several conifers hung up in large yellow birches. We had to ask the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) forester who came by occasionally for permission to cut the unmarked birches to free the snags, and he marked the stump with the flat end of his ax which had protruding letters of steel on it. Then we would cut off most hung up conifers at their base, notch and back cut the birch and at last cut the two remaining conifers. The whole assembly would tip over and fall to the ground in

a large arc with a big roar. Children at play!

I do not recall how much we cut on an average day. One beautiful weekend however, when Dick had to go home on other business, I remember cutting ten cords in two days and being very pleased. They paid \$5.00 per cord for cutting, which grossed me \$50.00 that weekend. It was a bigger payoff than usual, because the weather had been sunny and cool and the trees in an accessible arrangement.

It was also a lot of money to a young man with little else at a time when the tuition for the coming year was \$700.00 at RPI, a textbook cost about \$7.00 and a loaf of bread went for 18 cents. For skidding with our good horse we earned \$4.50 per cord. All of us had a fair idea what we were making. They paid us on account and subject to the final tally when the log piles were scaled.

Room and board was \$2.80 per day, duly deducted by the old bookkeeper who

showed up once a week and did his thing in the office. He would pay us in cash when we wanted it. We only had need for it on rainy days, when many of us would walk out to town. Woodgate had one of those old wooden hotels then. Dick and I once drove to Boonville and saw a movie, with Gregory Peck as Captain Ahab.

Mostly though, we saved our pay and abstained from the usual carousing; we were both headed back to college. It was always entertaining after a rainy day to sit by the storehouse and watch some of our troupe return and stagger into camp. Some were totally black, except for their bloodshot eyes, having fallen into the mud all along the track. Great fun!

Looking back, I wonder whether the threat of forest fire damage would outweigh the fear of disturbing the Adirondack Park today. The Park has been set aside as a "forever wild" more than 100 years ago and perhaps natural disasters might be preferred to human meddling.

On the other hand, Mr. Colvin's operation was a case study in causing minimal damage or disturbance to the environment. I do not know if the state required him to skid with horses and remove the logs later over frozen ground. Maybe that was the most economical way to do it then. Nor do I know if the workers were told to keep things neat and clean because Dick did all the listening and talking with management. Both of us had been in the Boy Scout movement and took our trash back to camp without it ever being discussed.

Interestingly, there were no safety rules, or safety discussions of any kind. Also, no hard hats, chaps, ear protection or face screens—all of which are in use today. They became popular a little late, I should add, as my hearing is damaged. When you were 23, you naturally assumed that you were immortal and just used common sense. In retrospect, I would have preferred to use the safety gear and the safety procedures of today.

It was a great time! We were proud of our work, suffered no injuries and had no regrets. I just wish I could remember the name of our good friend, the horse. ▲

Peter, 1997 Tree Farmer of the Year and 1998 Heiberg Awardee, is a regular contributor to the NY FOREST OWNER. This article is reproduced, with permission, from the Northern Logger and Timber Producer, August 1993. A collection of Peter's writings in the FOREST OWNER may be ordered from Debbie Gill, 800-836-3566.

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Some Thoughts On Private Rights, Responsibilities And Public Concerns

By Keith A. Argow

A gate stands at the edge of my wood lands. When I'm there it's open, but the rest of the time it's closed. Although there may or may not be a lock on this gate, its very existence can be likened to the front door of my home. It is a statement of where my boundary begins, and yours, (either as a neighbor or the general public) ends.

One of the cornerstones of the United States' position as a great and successful nation is the powerful notion of the right to own private property, and to exercise the responsibilities that go with it. People understand and respect home ownership. Owning and caring for a home is one of life's dreams. In America that dream is often attained—maybe more than anywhere else in the world.

When it comes to owning the great outdoors, however, a different mindset takes over. People are used to farmers owning fields, but the thought of someone actually holding title to cascading creeks, woodlands or part of a mountain rings strange. This is especially true for those who—like their parents before them—have spent their entire lives in cities.

They see land stewardship not through the eyes of a landowner, but from the perspective of a homeowner with a little plot of grass, or a high-rise dweller with none at all. These people have a heightened concern for the beauty and diversity—if not the productivity—of our rural properties.

Poor stewardship and badly logged woodlands do not sit well with this group any more than a junky yard would be appreciated in a neat neighborhood. In the city there are ordinances to prevent aesthetic degradation. It is an easy jump to believe that laws and regulations should be enacted to prevent bad forestry, just as 17 states and a growing number of localities have already done.

NWOA understands these concerns, and often witnesses the unfortunate results of well-intentioned laws with unintended consequences. However, we deeply believe a better approach is the enactment of laws that recognize and honor private property, that pro-

mote good forestry, and minimize expensive government regulation. In short, we believe in responsibility instead of regulation, and education instead of enforcement.

What's so hard to understand about that? Apparently, everything.

At a recent meeting here in the nation's capitol I saw an ambitious nationwide survey unveiled. The stated goal was to know "everything about the ecosystem."

The concept of ownership was not even mentioned. How, after all, can you own part of an ecosystem? Well, I own parts of several ecosystems, I thought, and pay property taxes for the privilege.

The presentation went on and was quite impressive. The four players with the great-

est interests in ecosystems were identified: "government, academia, industry and environmental groups." I was dumbfounded. Where do the people who own more than half of those forested ecosystems fit in? In this plan, we simply don't.

To think that industry and government together represent the majority of the forested ecosystems in the U.S. is akin to believing that hotels and apartments provide most of the housing. How seemingly well-educated biologists can miss the mark this much unnerves me. So many people who really ought to know better don't have a clue as to where wood really comes from. It drives me nuts!

"At my gate" their interest in my land essentially stops—even though I am part of a greater ecosystem. Under current law, unless my activities degrade my neighbor's land or if I muddy the water, dirty the air, or harm an endangered species, how I care for my land is very much my choice and responsibility.

Stop doing to me; focus more on doing with me and I will probably open that gate. But that decision is mine, not yours. ▲

Keith Argow is Publisher of NATIONAL WOODLANDS, the magazine from the July issue of which this article is reprinted. NATIONAL WOODLANDS is the magazine of the National Woodland Owners Association with which NYFOA is an affiliated member. (See Page 17, this issue.)

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ASK A FORESTER

Q In my forest management plan is this phrase, "Water diversion devices such as culverts and broad-based dips and geotextile fabric should be included as part of a timber sales agreement as required." What is geotextile fabric and how is it used?

A . A brief summary of information on geotextiles may help you understand the subject. Almost all of this information comes from the Internet.

Permeable textiles are known as geotextiles, geofabrics, engineering fabrics, or just fabrics. Common applications for geotextiles are roads, subsurface drainage, asphalt overlays, hard armor underlayment, slope protection, steepened slopes, retaining walls, and embankments over soft soils.

Geotextiles serve four basic functions. These are **reinforcement**, **separation**, **drainage** and **filtration**. A brief discussion of each of these functions will help clarify the use of geotextiles.

The use of geofabrics can often decrease the amount of subbase and base course materials required. The fabric lends its tensile strength to the soil to increase and **reinforce** the overall design strength. In some areas, construction is proposed in "soft" areas where soils are too weak to support a road or structure. Without sufficient reinforcement, the foundation cannot "hold up" the structure and it fails at considerable expense.

Soft soils are a problem for equipment in the forest. Landings and roads are often built on less than ideal soils. Time can be lost on landings pushing or pulling log trucks, sharpening saws used on muddy logs and hauling in large quantities of hard fill to firm up the soft areas. Bypassing the

area, removing and replacing the soil, building directly on the soft soil, mechanical stabilization of the site have been the traditional ways of dealing with less than ideal soil conditions.

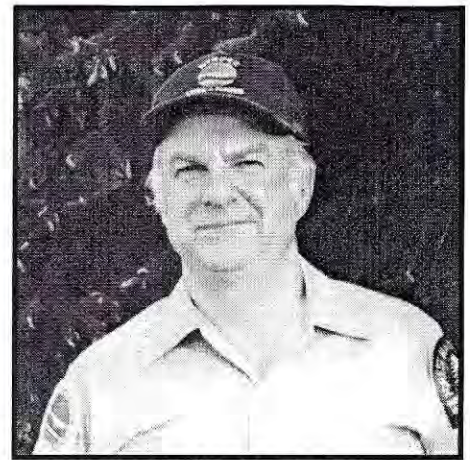
Bypassing the site is not always physically or legally possible. Removal and replacement of soil is commonly called "mucking" and is usually difficult and time consuming. Mucking works only if there is good, stable soil underneath. The purchase and transportation of suitable fill add to the cost.

Directly building on soft soil is a temporary solution to a serious problem. Anyone with a clay driveway knows how the fine material works its way into the base material and sinks out of sight. This necessitates the addition of more fine material which will also in time sink out of sight. Using fabric **separates** the softer soil from the better material on top. Geotextile can be used to permanently separate two distinct layers of soil. An example is where a road is to be built across a poorly drained, fine-grained soil (clay or silt) and a geotextile is laid down prior to placing gravel. This keeps the soft, underlying soil from working its way up into the expensive gravel and it keeps the gravel from working into the soft soil. The full gravel thickness remains intact and provides full support for many years.

A good **drainage** geotextile allows free water flow (but not soil loss) in the plane of the fabric. Geotextiles can be used instead of granular material in trench drains, blanket drains, and drainage columns next to structures. Geotextiles on soft soils allows subsurface water to pass into a drainage area while the adjacent soft clay or silty soil is prevented from passing through the fabric and clogging the drainage system.

Filtration involves the establishment of a stable interface between the drain and the surrounding soil. In all soils water flow will induce the movement of fine particles. The geotextile acts as a filter through which water passes while it restricts fine-grained soil from entering into coarse-grained soil (sand or gravel).

What are woven and nonwoven



Stephen Davison

geotextile fabrics? What is the difference? When do you use each type?

Woven fabrics have filaments woven into a regular, usually rectangular, pattern with openings that are fairly evenly spaced and sized. Nonwoven fabrics have filaments connected in a method other than weaving, typically needle punching or head bonding at intersection points of the filaments. The pattern and the spacing and size of the openings are irregular in nonwoven fabrics. Woven fabrics are usually stronger than nonwoven fabrics of the same fabric weight. Woven geotextiles typically reach peak strength at between 5 and 25 percent strain. Nonwoven fabrics have a high elongation of 50 percent or more at maximum strength.

Selection will depend on the actual soil and hydraulic conditions, the following general considerations seem appropriate for the soil conditions given:

- o Graded gravels and coarse sands—Very open monofilament or multi filament wovens may be required to permit high rates of flow and a low risk of blinding.

- o Sands and gravels with less than 20% fines (very "dirty" or silty sand and gravel)—Open monofilament wovens and needlepunched nonwovens with large openings are preferable to reduce the risk of blinding. For thin heat-bonded nonwoven geotextiles and thick needlepunched nonwoven geotextiles, filtration tests should be performed.

- o Soils with 20% to 60% fines (silt or silty sand)—Filtration tests should be performed on all fabric types.

- o Soils with greater than 60% fines (silt or clayey silt)—Heavy weight needlepunched and heat-bonded nonwoven geotextiles tend to work best as fines will not pass. If blinding does occur, the per-

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meability of the blinding cake would equal that of the soil.

□ Gap graded cohesionless soils—Consider using a uniform sand filter with a woven monofilament as a filter for the sand.

□ Silts with sand seams—Consider using a uniform sand filter over the soil with a woven geotextile to prevent movement of the filter sand; alternatively, consider using a heavy weight (thick) needlepunched nonwoven directly against soil as water can flow laterally through the geotextile should it become locally clogged.

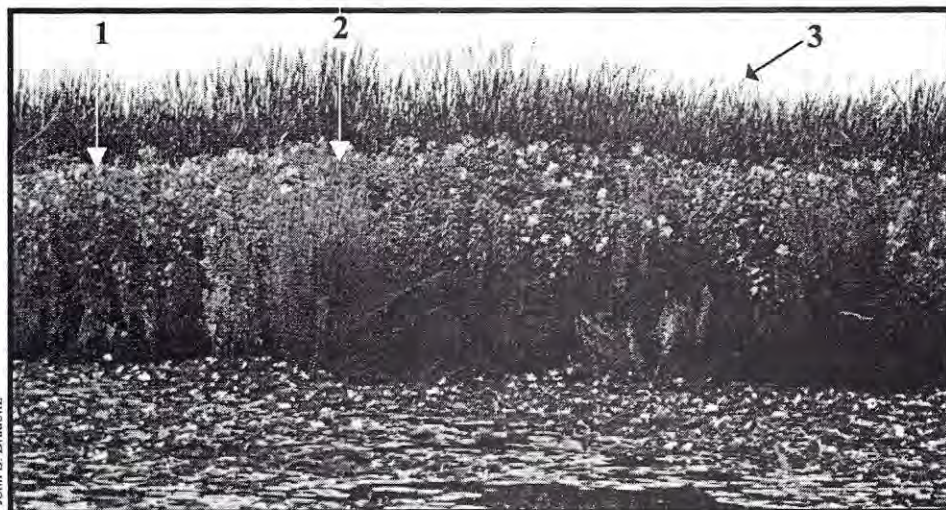
When constructing over extremely soft soils, the surface materials should be disturbed as little as possible. Use sand or sawdust to cover protruding roots, stumps, or stalks to cushion the geotextile and reduce the potential for fabric puncture. Nonwoven geotextiles, with their high elongation properties, are preferred when the soil surface is uneven.

Lay the Fabric. The fabric should be rolled out by hand, ahead of the backfilling and directly on the soil subgrade. The fabric is commonly, but not always, laid in the direction of the roadway. Where the subgrade cross section has large areas and leveling is not practical, the fabric may be cut and laid transverse to the roadway. Large wrinkles should be avoided. In the case of wide roads, multiple widths of fabric are laid to overlap. The lap length normally depends on the subgrade strength.

Lay the Base. If angular rock is to form the base, it is a common procedure to first place a protective layer of 6 to 8 inches of finer material. The base material is then dumped directly onto the previously spread load, pushed out over the fabric, and spread from the center using a bulldozer. It is critical that the vehicles not drive directly on the fabric nor puncture it. The blade is kept high to avoid driving rock down into the fabric. Finally, compaction and grading can be carried out with standard compaction equipment. If the installation has side drains, these are constructed after the pavement.

This basic information on geotextiles is not meant to be a recommendation. Geotextiles are a useful tool that can be used to improve landings and roads. They are not meant to be a replacement for good road layout and proper landing location.▲

Purple Loosestrife



1—Swamp Rose Mallow; 2—Purple Loosestrife; 3—Cattails. Montezuma Wildlife Refuge

By John S. Braubitz

Purple loosestrife (*Lathrum saliciria*) is a very beautiful, hardy perennial that arrived in New York State in the 1800s. The plant was probably brought here from Europe by settlers planning to plant them in their flower gardens. Seeds have been found preserved and identified in soils in the ballasts of old ships. (They used soil to weigh down ships for stability.)

These plants can rapidly destroy wetlands, reducing their value for wildlife habitat. It is estimated that 190,000 hectares of wetlands have had native flora replaced by these aggressive perennials in North America, and they have also been invading drier habitats, causing some concern for crop land.

This spring these plants became established on my farm for the first time. My wife is fond of purple loosestrife, and she is not enthused about any attempts to eradicate them.

There are few viable solutions for controlling these hardy perennials. Conventional means of control are:

- (A) Water level management
- (B) Burning
- (C) Herbicides
- (D) Direct digging
- (E) Biological control

The first four methods are difficult to implement on a large scale, leaving Biological Control as a viable option. There are three species of beetles used for this method: *Galerucella calmadiensis*, *G. pusilla* and *G. hylobius*. One of these weevils attacks the rootstock and the other two

feed on flowers and seeds. These beetles are being released in 30 states as well as Canada.

It is estimated that Biological Control will take 5 to 10 years to help restore the balance in some of the ecosystems. The photos that accompany this article show purple loosestrife in competition with Cattails (*Typha latifolia*) and a beautiful flower, Swamp Rose Mallow (*Hibiscus coccineus*). ▲

John Braubitz is a regular contributor to the NY FOREST OWNER and Professor in the Science Department of Cayuga County Community College.



Great Blue Heron

MOURNINGCLOAK BUTTERFLY

—*the spring beauty*

By Douglas C. Allen

This defoliator is the only species of butterfly considered a tree pest in the northeast. It gained notoriety in New York State in the late 1800s and early 1900s when it was a significant problem of American elm, willow and cottonwood. Another distinctive feature of the mourningcloak, also known as the spiny elm caterpillar or willow butterfly, is its world-wide distribution in the northern hemisphere. In North America, it is found throughout the United States and Canada, and as far north as the Arctic Circle.

Host plant - now that elm (its favored host) is relatively rare thanks to the ravages of Dutch elm disease, the principle hosts are cottonwood, trembling aspen, hackberry, willow, birch, and linden.

Appearance - adults are very attractive and are one of the largest butterflies in New York state (Fig. 1). Their wing span is 2.5 to 3.5 ". The velvety wings vary from blackish to a rich purple, and the end of each wing has a distinct cream colored border sprinkled with brown specks. Immediately interior to this border is a row of light, bluish-purple spots.

Full grown caterpillars are approximately 2" long (Fig. 2). The coal black body has numerous white specks and a distinct row of red spots along the middle of the back. In addition, it possesses several longitudi-

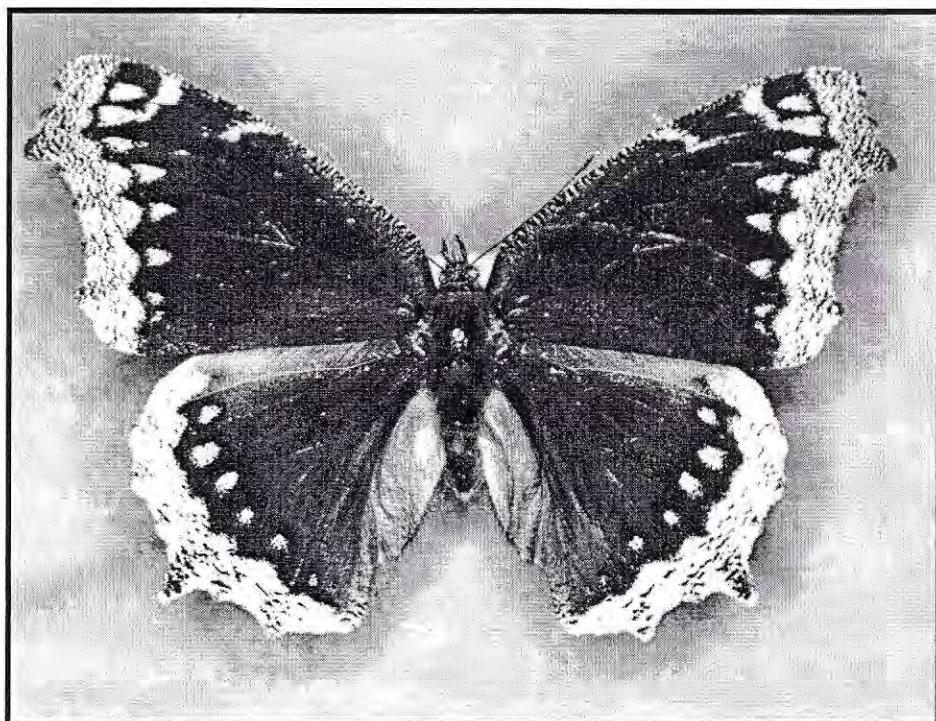


Fig.1 Mourningcloak butterfly.

nal rows of prominent black, branched spines.

Biology - unlike most butterflies, the mourningcloak overwinters as an adult. It seeks refuge during late fall in wood piles,

tree cavities and other secluded spots. Because it overwinters in this stage, it is the earliest butterfly to take wing in the spring, usually during March in southern parts of our state and April further north. There are two generations each year, which means it also is one of the last butterflies we see in the fall.

The first generation usually causes the most damage, which becomes apparent in early to mid-June. By the time the second generation appears, natural enemies that exploited the first generation usually are numerous enough to significantly reduce population numbers.

Though adults are active in early spring, egg laying is delayed until May at which time each female deposits a mass of 300 to 400 eggs on a host branch, at about the time buds are expanding. Caterpillars are gregarious throughout most of their life. Colonies usually feed at the tips of branches and defoliate one branch at a time. This makes feeding by just one or two colonies relatively conspicuous, unlike comparable

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numbers of a solitary defoliator whose damage is spread more evenly throughout the tree crown. Often branches infested with spiny elm caterpillars bend under the combined weight of individuals in the colony and this, too, makes the pest easy to spot.

Management - mourningcloak infestations are very localized but are capable of causing noticeable defoliation in both woodlot and urban settings. Now that elm is so rare, trembling aspen and willow are the principle hosts under forest conditions, but significant damage is unusual. Defoliation is encountered most commonly in suburban situations.

A large complex of parasitic and preda-

ceous insects is responsible for keeping populations low or quickly reducing high populations to innocuous levels. However, it only takes one or two colonies to impair the visual quality of a shade tree. The most effective means of preventing this (when affected trees are not too tall) is to physically remove the infested part of a branch

in early stages of larval development. This reduces the likelihood of reinfestation and, if done early, will minimize impact on tree appearance. The commercially available bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* ("Bt"), also is a very effective control. ▲

This is the 40th 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 NY-FOA, phone Debbie Gill at 800-836-3566. It is also possible to download this collection from the DEC Webpage by clicking on articles using the

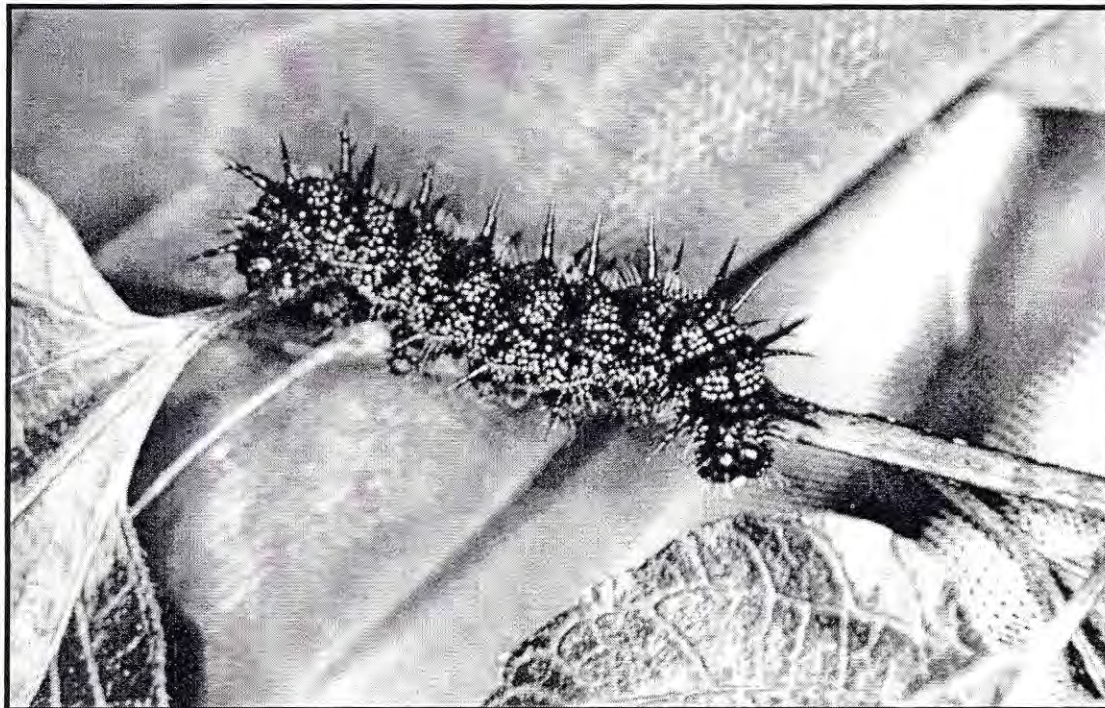


Fig.2 Spiny elm caterpillar

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What's Good for the Goose...

By Jane Sorensen Lord, PhD, OTR, ND

I was swimming slowly along the edge of our pond peeking into the shallow water to check fish fry and between the rushes looking for bull frogs.

"Peep! Peep! Peep!" I heard, before I saw two fluffy mallard sized Canada goslings hiding in the grasses. We let the weeds around the pond grow high to discourage nesting. I know they were not hatched on my pond. Migrating geese had touched down for a rest, but none had stayed. We hadn't seen any for at least a month.

"Well, hello! What are you guys doing here? Where are your mommy and daddy? Are you okay?" And softly peeping they retreated further under the grass.

Later in the afternoon they walked out of the pond, past the weed row to eat grass. When a curious cat approached they scuttled back to the safety of the water, defenses already set.

The next day they rushed across the water to eat the feed pellets I threw in for the fish. Unnerved by the eager fish, the baby geese waited for the feed to float into the shallow water then gobbled it up peeping happily.

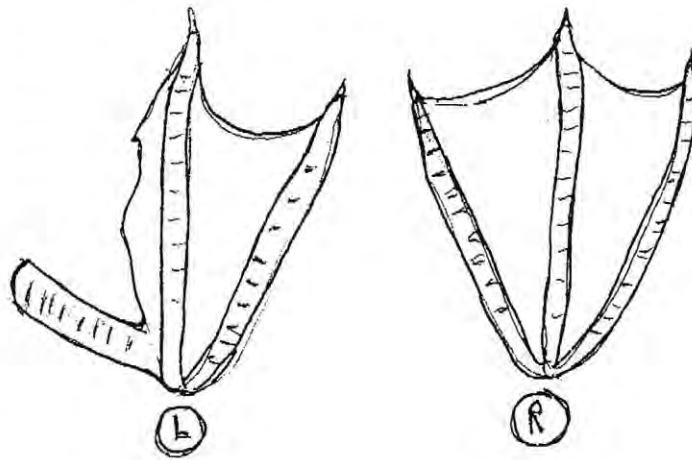
The third day during my edge inspection I heard their peeping behind me. They were following me slowly about six feet away. I noticed as I swam on that certain types of grass had been nibbled up. With the babies still following, I stopped and picked some of the higher leaves and offered them. They approached closely enough to quickly pluck them from my hand, devoured them and peeped for more. The friendship began.

For the next couple of weeks the routine was fish food in the morning and yummy grasses in the afternoon. You could see them growing daily. Feathers began to replace fluff, the peeps got deeper. They began to follow me out of the pond and would contentedly eat grass while I sat in the lawn chair drying off. They got to know Gordon, too, and would follow him while he watered the garden by the pond.

We giggled the day they waddled a

couple hundred feet from the water to graze near the front sidewalk to join us during cocktail hour. It happened daily. We carried on long and involved peep conversations.

We returned from shopping early one Saturday afternoon and could see one lying distorted on the side of the pond, the other nearby peeping in distress. I ran down. He looked up in pain and terror. His left foot was in shreds, the web torn open



and the bone showed through at the ankle. I knew right away—that damned snapping turtle!

I ran back to the house and mixed up extracts of echinacea and yarrow in some canola oil. Echinacea has antibiotic properties and yarrow heals wounds. I ran back. I picked him up, sat down with him on my lap and put on the oil with an eye dropper. He stayed completely still, resting his head against me. I got on several coats then put him back on the grass. The terror was gone, maybe some of the pain, too, and composure was mostly regained.

He ate boneset in the fish feed, and in the next couple of weeks the wound healed. The web between his middle and outside toe was destroyed, part of the toe dropped off, but the remaining section jutted out at right angle from the ankle for balance. He could walk with a limp.

Came time for flight practice and he lagged a bit behind during running take-offs. But he got it.

The three of us had great fun! They practiced diving—disappearing suddenly under

the surface and popping 15 feet away—or rolling over, feet and belly on the surface, then back, flapping wings to dry. They ate mud, then blew their noses under water. They also ate Japanese beetles and dragon flies blown into the water (wouldn't touch downed honeybees).

Toward the end of July they started to honk. One day they attracted in a family of eight whom we yelled off the pond. The next morning a family of four was

there and when I opened the front door they took off—with Molly, our strong baby.

All day long Mo stayed on the pond alone honking plaintively. That afternoon he flew up to the front porch and stayed until nightfall then flew back to the pond. At daybreak we could hear his honking. He was gone when I looked out at seven. About ten, a lone goose flew onto the pond. I ran to the shore and Molly came over immediately. She stayed the day and night and was gone again in the morning. The pond is so quiet—and lonely. They left before we

banded them, so if you meet a pair of friendly Canada geese, one with a crippled foot, give them a stroke for me. One answers to Molly and the other to Mo. ▲

Dr. Jane and her husband, Gordon, have been Tree Farmers since 1986 and trained as Master Forest Owners. In her work as an occupational therapist and naturopath she takes care of people. Her e-mail address is: drjane@interserv.com & Webpage: <http://members.aol.com/infoland/ herb.html>

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**WOODLOT
 CALENDAR**

Sep 9-11: NYSAF; 1998 Summer Meeting; Allegany SP; 716/372-0645

Sep 11,12: NYFOA's Annual Fall Meeting; Kanona; 800/835-3566; See Page 13.

Sep 17: ESFPA Annual Mtg.; Pub. Land Mgmt. & Priv. Prop. Rights; Cooperstown; Rgstr.; 518/463-1297

Sep 17-19: THRIFT; Game of Logging; Boonville; Register 315/623-9476

Oct 3: Ont.Co.RC&D; Woodlot Owner's Workshop; Batavia; 716/589-5959

Oct 3,4: NYFOA's Family Fair; Washington County Fairgrounds; M. Binder 518/797-3795.

Oct 9, 10: THRIFT, CFA; Overnight Trip to New Hampshire; Register 315/623-9476.

Oct 10: WFL; 9 AM; Estate Planning Seminar; Highland Ave., Rochester; 716/367-2849(eve)

Oct 24: NY American Chestnut Annual Mtg.; SUNY-ESF, Syracuse; Registration-716/745-7772.