

*The New York*

# **FOREST OWNER**

A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association

November/December 1998

**•1998  
STORMS**

**•FOREST  
TRAILS**



**•NYFOA'S  
FALL  
MEETING**

# THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

VOL. 36, NO. 6

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## COVER:

Top, Grapple skidder removing red pine from a clear cut. Bottom, Tree Delimber operating at a concentration site prior to the next site where trees are cut to final specs and loaded.

# 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 Jan/Feb is December 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.

## NYFOA'S 1998 FALL MEETING



Mark Keister, NYS DEC Sr. Forester provides some details and background to one of the sites of the self-guided tour of State Demonstration Forest. See page 18.

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# President's Message

By Jill Cornell

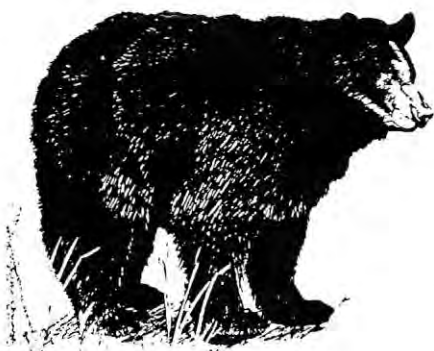
Many thanks to the members who have sent me their tax information for the Forest Tax Survey which was printed in the Sept/Oct issue of this magazine. We need **everyone** to send in information. This is a wonderful opportunity to document the differences in tax assessments across the state, and to provide information to support the need for changes in the way our woodlots are assessed, taxed and "viewed".

The information I receive from you is sent to Alan White, manager of the Watershed Forestry Program, and a leader in the Coalition to Amend the Forest Tax Program (480a). He is compiling and analyzing the data.

I do recommend that you make a Xerox copy (see pg. 13) to fill out, so you can save the magazine from cut outs.

Our Family Forest Fair '98 was a great success October 3 and 4 at the Washington County Fairgrounds. (More on that elsewhere in this [pg. 12] and/or future issues.)

Thanks also to the 600+ members who took the time to complete the lengthy questionnaire on facts about your woodlot. The returns represent about a third of our family members, and that is considered a high return. Special thanks to Helen Marchant for the endless hours of entering the data into a NYFOA database. Now that the Fair is over, I hope to look at the data



and will soon report on the collective information.

At its June meeting, the NYFOA Board of Directors passed a "Resolution to urge the Governor and Legislators of NYS to support funding to enable provision of the equivalent of one Private Service Forester for each County in the State, to work on educational outreach to private owners in concert with private consulting foresters, industrial foresters, other public and private foresters, and loggers, to ensure the sustainability of New York's finest natural resource".

On October 7, 1998 I will invite the NYS Forest Practice Board to endorse the resolution and to join NYFOA in presenting it to the Governor and Legislators. On October 8th the New York Tree Farm Program will also be invited to join us. Members of the Coalition working to amend the forest tax program will also be invited to "sign on". (Copies of the full resolution are available from Debbie Gill, Executive Secretary of NYFOA, 800-836-3566). I expect that it will be a difficult "sell" to the legislature, especially the Assembly. However, if we don't ask for it, it will never happen. The more groups with us the better our chances will be. NY's 500,000 private forest owners need to speak up for our 14 million acres of forest land.

Please be thinking about nominations from your region for positions on the NYFOA Board of Directors, and for anyone you feel should be considered for special award recognition. Call your Chapter Chair with your candidates. They will be presented to the Nominating and Award Committees in January, 1999.

Finally, I want to wish all of you a very joyous holiday season filled with all of the many wood products that contribute to the traditions and festivities of the holidays.



Jill Cornell acting maternally at the Family Forest Fair. Photo by Jack Hamilton

Book Review:

## IMAGES

By Dorothy S. Darling

Readers of the NY FOREST OWNER are familiar with the 26 poems published since January 1994 that were generously contributed by Dorothy Darling. A few of those works and many others, a total of 37 poems in all, are now available as a collection bound with paper in a booklet of 50 pages.

Our readers who have enjoyed Mrs. Darling's work will have similar thoughts and sentiments when they encounter her poetry offered in this collection which is entitled, IMAGES. Dorothy Darling has a keen appreciation for nature and the many emotions which human sensory perceptions evoke.

However, her appreciation for nature and the skill she uses to recreate sympathy for our own experiences in nature is not the only arena for her poems. IMAGES has a touch of Ireland, spiritual awe and remembrances of our youth that persist as more than pleasant recall. It may very well be the more personal and spiritual poems of this collection which will be a surprise and dessert for Dorothy's readers.

AND, at \$5.00 and \$1.00 for shipping and handling, it is a real bargain. Please mail your check and request to:

Dorothy Darling; PO Box 294; Odessa, NY 14869.

—R. Fox

# FOREST TRAILS

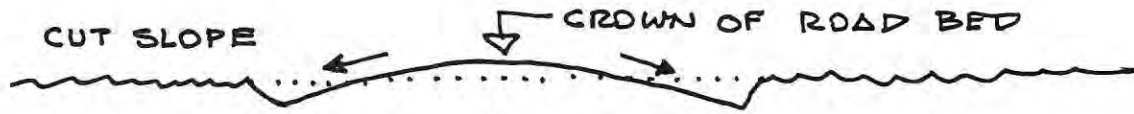
By Peter S. Levatic, ©1998

If brooks and creeks are the veins of your wood lot, then forest trails are the arteries. Or, more appropriately, trails are like the xylem and phloem under the bark of your trees where all good things

est and develops a much more intimate relationship with them.

Larger trails are the social corridors through the forest. Perhaps just passable with a farm tractor, most have been old log-

worked for me. Our soil is the impervious clay stuff with stones in it so prevalent in the Southern Tier. The stones have broken surfaces, they are not rounded pebbles. My advice below, therefore, may not apply in



Sketch 1

flow hither and yon. Consider the constant movement on your forest trails. Wildlife of all sorts readily uses man made trails to get from here to there. They prefer them for ease of movement and good visibility. Surface water enjoys running on trails as long as the running is downhill. Forest products from berries to saw logs travel outward on the trails. Human traffic is the most varied: forest workers, playing children, hikers, bikers, hunters and fishermen, herbalists, bird watchers, skiers and just plain loafers (the best kind) move at various speeds and times. If trails were not there, the woods would be a lonely place. If there were no trails, life in the forest would be much harder.

Trails come in all sizes and kinds. The most fun are the narrow ones often called paths. Sometimes evolved from deer trails, they are just wide enough to let us by single file and they tend to meander around. We do not see far and therefore focus on the immediate surrounding where we see the beautiful tiny things: insects, rodents, reptiles, leaves all around us, small birds near by. Sometimes close encounters with larger wildlife occur. Here one feels more as an equal to these other inhabitants of the for-

ging trails. They are still narrow, but you can walk side by side, and talk and discuss, disagree even, although you seldom do. These are the group trails where we learn from and teach each other. There is elbow room for skiing and biking. The vistas are longer and more productive for bird watching, wildflower sighting, hunting and photography.

Lastly, are the largest forest trails. We call them roads. They come in all sizes, from the paved access roads in public parks to the unpaved work roads of the private forests. It is the latter which most of us have in our wood lots. These roads are laid out for a purpose: to take a car to the cabin in the woods, to haul equipment to where we work and to take the products out. These roads don't just happen but are planned, laid out, constructed. They need most of our attention, because we have to maintain them to keep them functional. We need to repair the wear and tear and do what it takes to prevent water erosion from occurring. While this is serious business, good forest roads have many delights in addition to their utility. They carry you quickly to the varying parts of the forest, they provide comfortable access over long distances, and an easy overview.

Unfortunately, all roses have their thorns. The potential for erosion of the forest trails is the devil in all of this. Fortunately, erosion only occurs in the forest where the soil is disturbed. The undisturbed forest land can take the surface water; it has done it for ages. No erosion of any significance will occur even if you clear cut the forest. But even a worn bicycle trail will start eroding and it gets worse from there. I have been struggling with erosion of roads in my forest and would like to tell you what has

every detail, if your soil is well drained loam, or sand, or gravel. But most of my advice will still be useful to you.

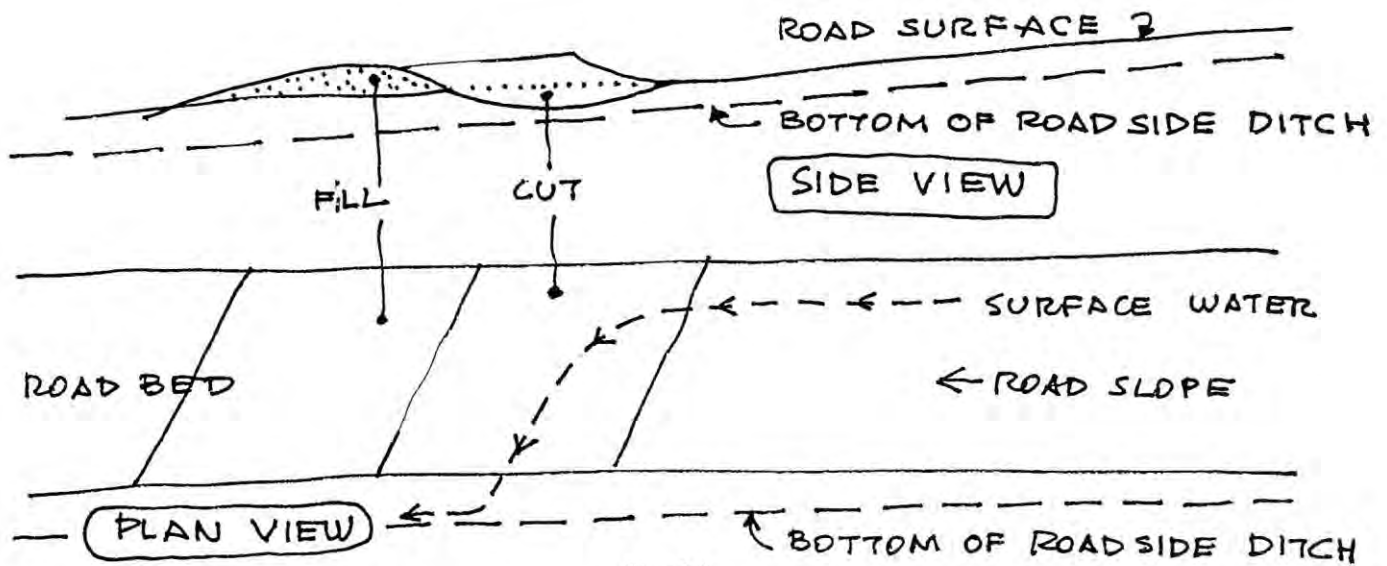
## EROSION

Remember that erosion is caused by water in motion. It occurs in the puddles on your road when your tire goes through them. The front tire churns the puddle and makes it muddy, the rear tire then slops the muddy water out. The mud in that water is soil which is now out of the hole: erosion. Wheel traffic makes puddles deeper by removing soil suspended in the water that slops out. After a while the hole in your road will get deep enough for your car to get stuck. You need to fix that hole long before this happens.

Water in motion is the rain which falls on your road. Some of it comes to a halt when it fills the holes in the road. There it waits for your tires to give it new life. Some of the rain starts running downhill on the road surface. As it moves, it loosens the soil. As it gains volume (from continuing rain, or the merging of more running water from elsewhere) it will loosen stones and rocks making the erosion worse and worse. So you have to design something to divert the running water from the road surface and as quickly as possible. See *Sketch 1*

If your road is level, your only defense is to shape the road so the water runs off to the sides. This is called crowning the road. The water then fills the side ditch and by sloping the ditch bottom, water is induced to run in the ditch along the road to a point where it is convenient to let it escape onto undisturbed ground. There the forest litter and ground vegetation will take this water without erosion, Why? Because this ground surface has not been disturbed like the road

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Sketch 2

surface has been by traffic. Aha! This leads to another possibility: why not make the road surface itself undisturbed? This can be done and nature does it if given enough time: Grass growing on road surfaces will prevent erosion. You can seed your road and grass will grow if it has enough sunlight. However, if traffic resumes grass will quickly deteriorate and then you cannot depend on it anymore. See Sketch 2.

If your road slopes in the direction of travel, the crowning will only suffice on a "gentle" slope. How gentle? Depends on the quantities of traffic and water. There are no set formulas because your soil will vary sufficiently by the acre. You have to crown and see what happens. If you notice erosion, or the road slopes "considerably", you need to stop the water running in the

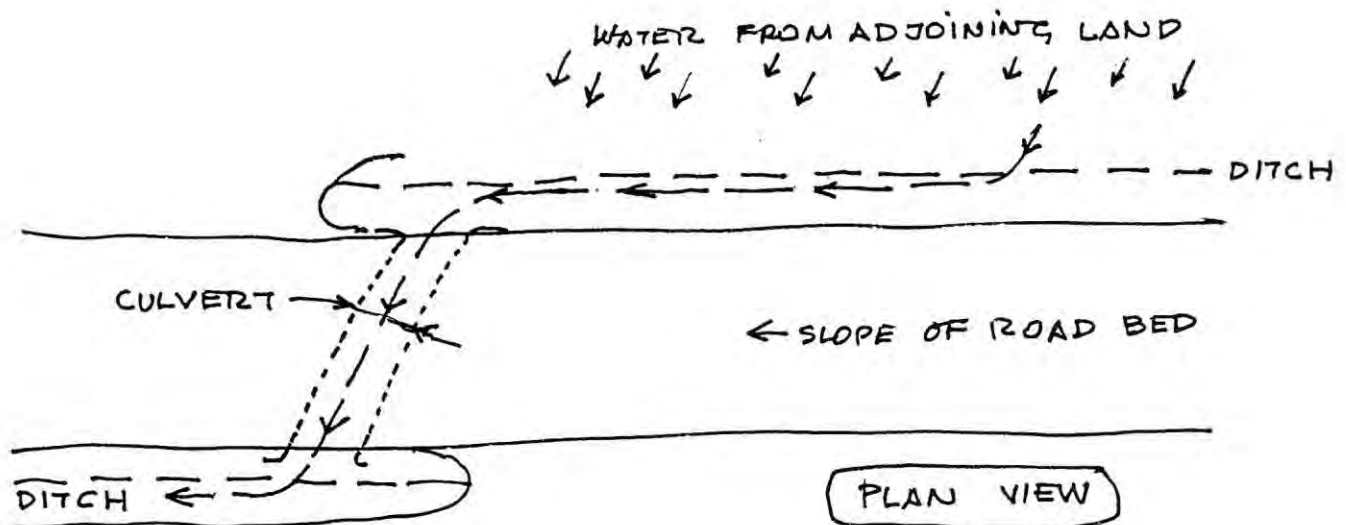
road, such as in wheel tracks, by water bars. These are small ditches or swales; across the road sloped so that the water catches in them (as in the gutters of your roof) and is carried off to the side. See Sketch 3.

Water in motion from adjoining sloping land can reach your road and flow on it. This can be a great problem. To prevent it from occurring, you need a ditch along the road to intercept this invading water. The ditch, like a roof gutter, will take water to a point where it can be transferred to the down slope side of the road through a pipe, a culvert.

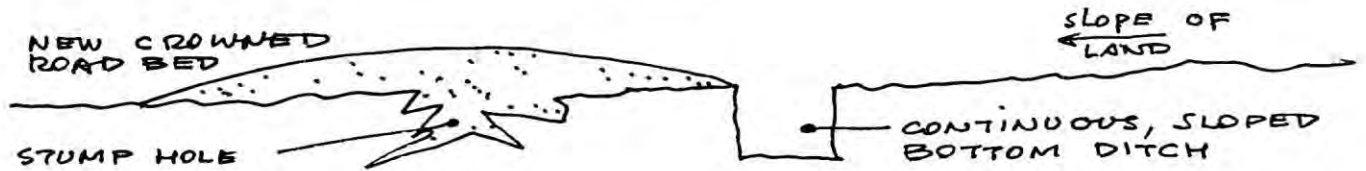
It will help you to study public dirt roads to see how they are made to work-, or, why they fail to work. Look at their drainage system. They will have side ditches, most likely. These side ditches are "relieved" by

culverts under the road to the side where the land slopes away from the road, and the moving water is thus diverted. These roads may not have crowns, because they wear off first. If the road does not have side ditches, it may have water bars instead. If it does not have them either, you probably will get your car all muddy and stuck. If so, you can get on your cell phone and call AAA. But on your forest roads AAA will not help much. So you have to maintain your own roads. This can be fun if you are attentive and avoid long periods of neglect. You should maintain your roads not only for your own comfort and economy but also because you are the steward of your land, the temporary custodian of the soil and forest values. No privileges exist without corresponding duties, and avoiding erosion is

Sketch 3



Sketch 4.



one of your duties.


### NEW ROADS

New roads should be laid out with water flow control solutions in mind. I have found that new roads on gentle to moderate slope are easiest to make erosion resistant. Flat land is the most troublesome, because it is hard to get water off the road effectively. Side ditches here often have to be led to deep dug holes where an average rainfall water amount can be accommodated until it seeps away. In any case, I recommend hiring a backhoe to remove stumps from a new road way first. Next, side ditches should be dug. With the backhoe and the excavated material used to fill the stump holes, raise the roadbed, and construct a good crown. This top filling will need to settle and has to be regraded from time to


time until it stabilizes ( usually one year). I use the back blade on my tractor to regrade. The clay dries out in the first summer and turns almost to concrete hardness on my hills. Therefore, I had not needed to place stone surfacing on my roads as long as I keep away from them during snow melt when the top of the surface gets a little "greasy". You have to observe your own prevalent conditions and decide if you need a hard surface to satisfy your road needs. Buy crushed stone if you can because the sharp edges of the particles make this surface more stable than the round stones of bank run gravel. Such a road is simple and economical to construct. The excavated ditch material becomes the firm road bed. It is elevated and crowned. My principal access road constructed this way without stone surfacing has served for 23 years

without trouble. See Sketch 4.

Finally, if third parties such as harvesting contractors use your forest road, make sure your consulting forester writes into their contract how erosion will be controlled and in what condition your forest road will be left at the end of the work. Be very detailed about this.

Trails: arteries of forest work, recreation, stewardship and enjoyment! If you treat them well, trails of all kinds will serve you faithfully and for a long time. 

*Peter, 1997 Tree Farmer of the Year and 1998 Heiberg Awardee, is a regular contributor to the NY FOREST OWNER. A collection of Peter's writings in the FOREST OWNER may be ordered from Debbie Gill, 800-836-3566.*



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# A Little Extra "TLC" For New York Forests

By Peter J. Smallidge

**D**uring the last few years, New York forest owners have gained a new option in their desire for sustainable forest production and rural communities have gained from increased professionalism. What is this new option? A group of loggers who voluntarily developed and participated in the New York Logger Training, Inc., Trained Logger Certification (TLC) program.

Loggers who complete TLC, over 100 so far, are committed to keeping their skills honed and increasing their knowledge about logging productivity and forest ecosystems. Loggers are also making a commitment to continuing education, as the program requires continuous training to maintain certification. As a result, these loggers are better able to meet the stewardship needs of forest owners. Traditionally, New York loggers have received on the job training through their employers or co-workers. While this traditional approach has been sufficient for some training needs, several loggers from across the state felt a need to recognize efforts for increased levels of professionalism. These loggers knew first hand the hazards of working in the woods, the need to work efficiently, and the need to be environmentally aware of the forest resource we all use. They recognized the potential to educate themselves and others through a statewide effort.

The logger training effort began in 1989 with a group of timber harvesters concerned with the need to provide a formalized training and recognition program which would make limited training resources go further. In 1994, New York Logger Training was incorporated to coordinate the delivery of educational resources to timber harvesters that will improve their technical skills, and will foster the implementation of environmentally sound harvesting practices. The goal of this training and certification program is increased productivity for loggers, increased use of best management practices (BMPs), and a safer working environment. Together, goals should lead to increased profits for loggers and forest owners while increasing the quality and value of forested lands.

The TLC program includes three core components which are: Standard Adult First Aid and CPR; Environmental Concerns; and Chain Saw Operation, Safety, and Productivity. Each component is a one day session and forms the basis of the initial certification. New York is divided into

five areas, each with a regional chair and committee organized to arrange local educational programs. The continuing education part of Trained Logger Certification requires loggers to maintain their first aid and CPR certification as well as take additional approved courses during a five year period on a variety of topics, such as small business management, sustainable forestry, or advanced chain saw safety. TLC loggers, rapidly growing in numbers, represent another group of resource professionals that forest owners should seek when considering a timber sale.

Of the core components, Environmental Concerns has the greatest direct impact on forest owners and our forest resources. This component addresses the management practices that are necessary and appropriate to ensure the continued productivity and vigor of forests and how the components of forest ecosystems interact. The Environmental Concerns component covers a large number of topics that help loggers understand why foresters make certain decisions. Loggers better understand, for example, the silvicultural marking guides used to determine which trees should be cut during a preliminary (versus a final) harvest to ensure the long-term growth, regeneration, and health of the forest. After completing this component, loggers have improved knowledge of how forest management practices help maintain water quality and logging aesthetics and why different practices are used in different situations.

The Chain Saw Operation, Safety, and Productivity component provides a "hands-on" session that covers the relationship between safety and productivity. Specific topics addressed in this component include safety protection precautions and equipment, chain saw maintenance, safe chain saw operations, and several tree felling techniques. Currently, accredited workshops are offered by trained and certified professional logging instructors who themselves have a rigorous training and certification program to complete. The Chain Saw Operation, Safety, and Productivity component benefits forest owners as well as loggers. This safety training has reduced the insurance costs for companies and logging supervisors, reduced damage to the trees left standing after logging because of increased skill in felling trees, and provides land owners with fewer concerns about the safety of those working in their woods.

The Standard Adult First Aid and CPR

component is provided through the American Red Cross or other local providers, and also meets the first aid requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Numerous topics are covered, including Good Samaritan Laws, anatomy, cardiac arrest, strains and sprains, transport of injured people, shock, burns, and over a dozen other first aid situations.

The TLC program is gathering momentum among loggers throughout New York. In addition to the 100 plus loggers who have completed initial certification, 164 have completed two of the three components, and another 1000 loggers are currently participating in the training program. Many loggers have expressed their appreciation for the program. For example, after a recent Forest Ecology and Silviculture workshop (which covers the Environmental Concerns component standards) held in Warren County, participants reported a high level of usefulness of topics such as the importance of aesthetics, skills for interacting with the public, and an improved understanding of the ecology of forested wetlands and watersheds. Sessions in Warren County have drawn loggers from many parts of the Adirondacks, from those who recently joined the ranks of loggers to loggers who have been working in the woods for over four decades.

The TLC program is valuable in that it provides benefits to loggers, forest owners, and the rural communities that include New York's forests. The strength of the program is that it is a cooperative effort on the part of timber harvesters, forest industry, government, and academia. For more information about New York Logger Training, Inc. and the Trained Logger Certification Program, contact Muriel D. Karp, Director of Communications at the Empire State Forest Products Association (phone 518-463-1297, ext. 3). Forest owners interested in forestry education programs should contact their county office of Cornell Cooperative Extension. If you would like more information on timber harvesting practices, contact your county association of Cornell Cooperative Extension and request "A Guide to Logging Aesthetics: Practical Tips for Loggers, Foresters and Landowners" (publ. no. 123NRAES60) for \$6.00 or look for it on the web at: [www.cce.cornell.edu/publications/natural-resources.html](http://www.cce.cornell.edu/publications/natural-resources.html)



*This article and others by Dr. Smallidge are available from Cornell Cooperative News Service (the series, Forests For Tomorrow.)*

# ADVENTURES IN CLEARCUTTING

## —THE NATURAL WAY

By Rolf Wentorf

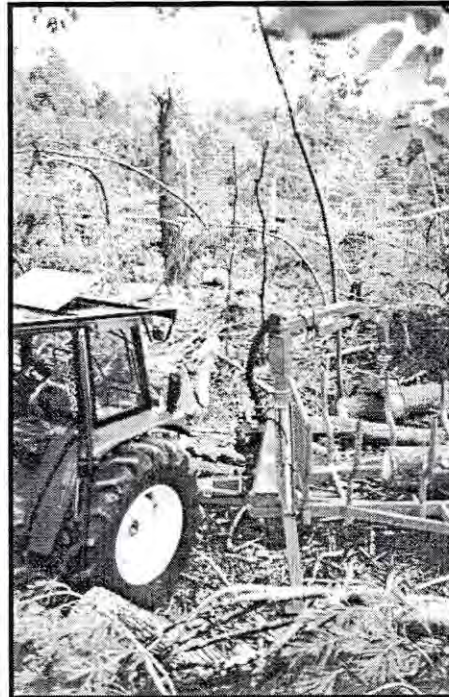
5/31/98: "This is a dangerous situation—take cover now!"

The weather radio's imperative seemed out of place for what seemed to be just another dark line of thunderstorms finishing off a hot and humid afternoon. Soon pink lightning flashed every few seconds from all directions, the rain became a white blur against a dark grey background, and the wind and thunder merged with the howling under the eaves as if the house itself was going to take off. Incrementally, prudence and fear overtook curiosity and pushed us down the basement stairs, but after a few minutes, the storm tapered off to a light shower, and we ventured outside. Lots of leaves and twigs lay everywhere, but there was hardly any major damage around the house.

"You're OK!", exclaimed our neighbors from the other end of the quarter-mile-long driveway as they arrived on foot through the woods, and told us we wouldn't be getting out for a day or two. It seemed like everyone was an alarmist. OK, we thought, let's take a look. We started down the road through our woodlot towards Route 67, first encountering a large branch that had fallen across the road and which, together, we could pull out of the way. Next, we came across a tree that had come down across the road; we figured that one should take just a few minutes to clear away with the chain saw. A few steps more led us to a mangled chunk of vented soffit; it was odd in that it wasn't the right color for our house. The road tunneled through a tall dense stand of white pines that we had "TSI'd" a year ago, and as we continued, we saw a big hole in the canopy off to the west. Well, one has to expect some wind throw after thinning.

The road reached the edge of a plateau and ... SKY, lots of sky, with clouds, patches of sunlight, and a long view of another neighbor's house (minus some siding) that we never knew existed. Below us, the forest lay horizontal. I had a strange feeling of knowing exactly where I was, yet at the same time, nothing looked familiar. "See what I mean?" our neighbor said. It took us over half an hour to traverse the last few hundred feet through the entangled limbs that lay across the road.

On Route 67...mass confusion. Along the highway, power poles were snapped off or blown over, and the whole top of one



*Tractor/winch/forwarder at work.*

tree was precariously upside down on top of the power lines 20-30 feet above ground. Yet cars still raced down the highway to a growing queue in front of large cottonwoods covering both lanes and then some...where did they think they were going? A man and who could have been

*The whole removal process, however, has been slowed by the need to think through the safe and efficient order of operations.*

his son pulled in, jumped out, and began sawing the nearest black locust to pieces. I don't think they had any idea of what was ahead of them; they had no safety gear on, another thunderstorm was already overhead, and it was getting dark. "We're OK", we told them. "The houses are OK...other people must be worse off." So they left and I hoped they weren't offended.

It took four of us over a day to re-open

the road.

Since then, a forester estimated that approximately 90% of the five acres were totally destroyed, and another five acre parcel was damaged. Abrupt changes in elevation on the property may have protected the areas near the embankment along the Hoosick River, and to a lesser extent along the railroad track berm. This change in elevation delineated the boundary between the flattened area and that which was less heavily damaged. Viewed from above, the orientation of the stems form stream line patterns pointing from North to East along the 300-foot swath. In some cases, there are two layers of stems, the first layer pointing North, and the top layer pointing East. Much of the affected area had been thinned two years earlier to improve the quality of the timber trees, and, ironically, many of the least-damaged trees were the few girdled hardwoods; they apparently had less leaf area to collect the wind. The remaining trees were either broken off 10 to 30 feet above ground, or were tipped over completely. The majority of those snapped off were the pioneering white pines of this formerly abandoned farmland, and had been "weeviled" while still young. A half century later, each of these major branches, being one to two feet in diameter, had been torn off and carried horizontally up to 30 feet before reaching the ground or being pushed into the neighboring tree. In the latter case, a "domino effect" piled the accumulated debris and broke the stream line pattern. Usually, a large-diameter single stem, such as black cherry, lay at the bottom of the pile, tipped over and still attached to its root ball. More open areas of elm, ash, and maple saplings were bent over horizontally, but actually began to recover their original shape after a few months. The debris of damaged, up-wind homes was scattered throughout.

After the road was cleared, I built a landing across the highway to temporarily store the salvaged logs, as well as provide access for trucking. The private forester and the NYS DEC foresters both were concerned with blue stain and borers attacking the white pine over the warm summer months, so white pine became the salvage priority, then quaking aspen ("popple"),



and finally cherry, ash, and oak hardwoods. Next, I cut trails through the center and around the perimeter of the blowdown area, avoiding the piles and hardwood logs whenever possible. Using a farm tractor with a winch and a forwarder trailer known as a Metavic™, I extracted the sound logs from the debris, then accumulated them and carried them over the rough trails to the property entrance, under the railroad underpass and down to the landing. To date, all of these salvaged logs have been shipped to a plywood mill.

The debris piles, inter-tangled "leaners" and "whip poles" were initially released with a "power pruner," or a chainsaw with the bar remotely mounted on a pole. The whole removal process, however, has been slowed by the need to think through the safe and efficient order of operations, not to mention the relatively low ratio of salvageable lumber to woody debris, the hot and humid weather, and the abrasive cutting conditions. The latter is caused in part by plastered building material—such as fiberglass insulation—and windblown sand plastered into the bark, and also by the frequent need to cut into stems which have been pressed into the sandy loam. Carbide injected chains, which typically have lasted from three to seven fuelings, often require re-sharpening twice per tank in these conditions.

Despite the devastation our property took in the storm, however, by the beginning of

September, natural regeneration has already begun. Between the slash and wildflowers, new aspen sprouts, ash, maple, oak, cherry, black birch, and white pine seedlings are emerging. Dragon flies often hitch a ride on the tractor, bees work over the flower patches, and hairy woodpeckers examine the standing trunks. Most of the cherry trees left standing have been partially defoliated by fall webworm caterpillars.

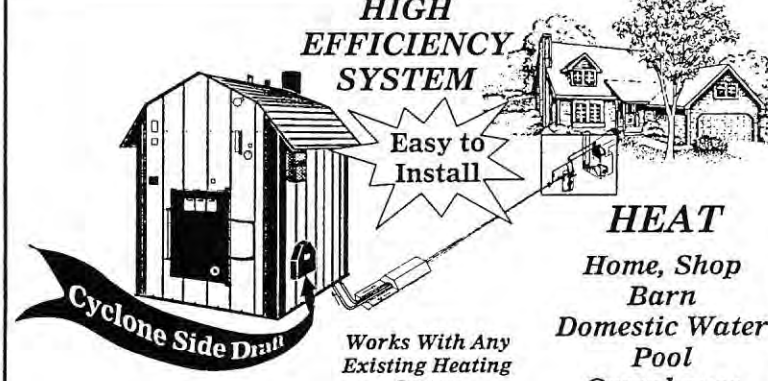
If conditions permit, we can consider planting extra stock this spring; the black walnuts we planted a few years earlier survived despite being topped off by the storm. Deer have already been seen in the clear-

ing so we will need to protect the young growth, perhaps by re-arranging the remaining downed limbs over it.

However, having deer in the new tree growth is a very minor problem, compared to the very real and serious problems we could have faced—yet narrowly avoided—on the last day of May 1998. ▲

*Rolf Wentorf is a member of the Capital District Chapter and webmaster of NYFOA's webpage. This article with more photos appears on the internet at: <http://www.rpi.edu/~wentorf/tornado.html> For more May Tornado damage pictures on State Forests, see page 19.*

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# EASTERN WHITE PINE

By Robert A. Hellmann

Having grown up in the white pine country of eastern Massachusetts and southeastern New Hampshire, I have always had a special affinity for eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus* L.) Although rarely seen now, in colonial times trees of 150 feet were not unusual, and even larger ones could be found. Such trees, tall and straight with clear boles, were sought by the Royal Navy for shipmasts. Agents of the king combed the forests of eastern New England and elsewhere for these highly prized specimens and blazed them with a special mark known as the "broad arrow", thus reserving them for His Majesty's ships. Severe penalties were brought down upon those caught pilfering or otherwise molesting those trees.

Eastern white pine is an important component of the mixed northern hardwoods-hemlock forests over friable soils of moderate to high sand content. Though the species will grow in some finer-textured soils, such as silt loams, it does not reproduce well there, and therefore is sporadic at best over the lacustrine soils of the Ontario lake plain and some other areas of western New York.

In the successional sequence white pine is generally preceded by birch, cherry, and aspen. These fast-growing trees with sparse shade serve as "mothering trees" for seedling white pines. In favorable locations white pine may come to form extensive pure stands, often of uniform age class, as the short-lived pioneer trees die off. A dense shade and accumulation of needle duff rich in organic acids and terpenes inhibit the growth of tree seedlings, even those of the pines themselves. As a result a clear park-like forest floor is often

characteristic of a mature white pine forest. Some specialized wildflowers, such as pink moccasin, rattlesnake orchid, and wood lily can be found there, though they are by no means abundant.




In due course some tree species highly tolerant of shade and able to survive the chemical properties of pine needle duff, such as hemlock, sugar maple, and beech, make their appearance, especially in occasional openings, where a veteran pine has grown old and fallen. Gradually, inexorably, the pine forest will give way to the northern hardwoods-hemlock mixture that prevails in many of the forests of New York, especially in the Adirondacks, Catskills, and parts of the southern tier. Because white pines often live to great age these hardwoods-hemlock forests often contain scattered giant century-old pines towering above the forest canopy, reminders of some earlier time when pines ruled supreme.

As an ornamental for landscaping, eastern white pine has some fine qualities. It grows fairly fast, fills out well, and has a soft bluish color and



fine textured foliage. It is the only evergreen, I know, that has fall foliage color. The needles live through two growing seasons. At the end of the second season the needles turn yellow before falling. This feature has led some people to ask me if there was something wrong with their trees. It is, in fact, perfectly normal and gives the tree an interesting and attractive bicolor appearance. For a country home a small mixed stand of white pine and red maple, with an

understory of common witch-hazel, makes a brilliant autumn display. However, blister rust fungus and white pine weevil may be problems in some areas. For best performance white pine likes a well drained site, ample sunlight, and a moderately coarse soil, such as sandy loam.

Silviculturally, the species is best treated as shade-intolerant, even though it can grow in moderate shade. It responds well, even vigorously, to thinning and release cuttings. White pine survives well in reforestation plantings, competing well against grasses and even goldenrods. It is highly vulnerable to "buck-rubbing", as the resinous bark is attractive to deer in rut because of its fragrance. Where deer are a problem, it is best not to prune off the lower branches until the trunk is too large to fit between the tines of a deer's antlers. This will not stop the buck-rubbing, but will provide sufficient interference to prevent girdling in most cases. Even with a few strips of bark and cambium the tree will recover, and in a few years the damage will be barely noticeable. Better yet, eat venison. 

Robert Hellman is Professor Emeritus at SUNY Brockport and a strong supporter and former Director of NYFOA.

# Feeding Deer

By DICK HENRY

Should you provide food to wild deer during severe winter conditions? Maybe. But doing it the right way may involve a considerable commitment of time, energy and even money. And you probably can count on the deer munching not just your shrubs but those of your neighbors.

The general rule about all wildlife is that if you love them, leave them alone. But if you insist on feeding wild deer, there are some important things you should know.

In a sincere effort to be compassionate toward wild deer, people very often do more harm than good. It's easy to do it wrong and reap results that are the opposite of what you intended. Unless you have a basic understanding of deer biology and physiology you could kill them with kindness.

Like cows, deer are ruminants that have four-chambered stomachs. Unlike humans, they do not have strong digestive juices, but instead rely upon bacteria and one-celled microscopic organisms to break down the food matter so that it can be absorbed by the body.

In the winter, the concentration of organisms is tuned to digest a deer's natural food during this season - primarily buds, twig tips and other woody browse. Introducing another food type (such as corn or forage pellets) requires a different concentration of stomach organisms so that complete digestion can occur. It may take up to three weeks for the deer's stomach culture to change. During the transition period, deer will eat the new food but receive very little nutrition.

On a broad scale, little is gained from attempting to feed large numbers of deer through the winter. Artificially maintaining larger numbers of deer than the natural range normally can support only sets up the deer population for a bigger crash at a later time. Additionally, the growing population will only further worsen the dwindling natural food supply.

It is important to begin any artificial feeding effort before deer become stressed by severe weather conditions rather than after those conditions occur. Artificial feeding needs to be continued almost until spring "green-up."

Furthermore, individuals must make commitments to an on going feeding op-

eration rather than a one-time "quick fix" Horse pellets, sweet feed and corn offer a reasonable mixture of potential energy and protein supplements. However, there will be a period of time before full nutritional benefit is realized from the artificially provided food.

Yes or No?

Snow depth, cold temperatures and wind all combine to drain energy from a deer on its natural range. If deer are already stressed from the rigors of winter, it is far better to provide natural food in a form of browse.

Cutting natural browse such as striped maple, red maple, dogwood, apple and witch hobble provide food which is readily digestible by the deer. Additionally, sprout growth from stumps will offer an additional natural food source in subsequent years.

Feeding programs also can affect others in the area. Feeding should not be conducted in a location that will concentrate deer near a highway and create a safety problem. Anyone feeding deer must be prepared for heavy browse damage to native and ornamental vegetation in the vicinity of the feeding site. What consequences will this have on your neighbors?

Many things need to be considered and a strong commitment made before someone starts a deer feeding effort. Costs, in time and supplies, can be considerable.

Doing it "right" requires dedication and proper planning. Doing it "wrong" is easier; however, it can have great negative impacts on deer.

For further information: contact the DEC wildlife office nearest you.

*Dick Henry is a deer biologist with the Hudson Valley and Catskills Regional Office of the NYS DEC.*

*From the Jan/Feb issue of the N.Y.S. CONSERVATION COUNCIL COMMENTS*

# For Engineers & Mathematicians Only

## Dilbert's Salary Law

Engineers and scientists will never make as much money as business executives.

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Postulate 1: Knowledge is Power.

Postulate 2: Time is Money.

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$$\frac{\text{Work}}{\text{Time}} = \text{Power}$$

Since Knowledge = Power, and Time = Money, we have:

$$\frac{\text{Work}}{\text{Money}} = \text{Knowledge}$$

Solving for Money we get:

$$\frac{\text{Work}}{\text{Knowledge}} = \text{Money}$$

Thus, as Knowledge approaches zero, Money approaches infinity regardless of the Work done.

Conclusion: The less you Know, the More you Make.

—From the Internet

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# LETTERS

## HELP

My family owns considerable acreage of undeveloped Adirondack forest land. Over the years, school and property taxes have become an increasingly burdensome expense.

I am seriously considering placing the land into the State's Real Property Tax Law Section 480a plan. Can you suggest previous issues of your publication which contain articles helpful in making a decision or getting started with the plan? Perhaps this would be an appropriate question for your column—Ask A Forester. Your response is greatly appreciated.

—Gary Brown, Liverpool

*We forwarded 8 articles beginning in 1991. There are an additional 11 earlier articles.—Editor*

## FREE WHEELING

Thought I would send you one of my favorite stanzas from a poem by Stephen Crane.

A man said to the universe:  
"Sir, I exist!"  
"However," replied the universe,  
"The fact has not created in me  
A sense of obligation."

—wayne oakes, Santa Fe, NM

## Overheard in Albany

What's the difference between a tenured professor and a terrorist?

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## Early Report on Family Forest Fair '98

By Jill Cornell, Committee Chair

The Fair Committee considers the October 3rd and 4th event a great success! The Director of the Fairgrounds estimated between 5000 and 6000 people attended. The weather was wonderful. There were over 100 exhibitors and vendors who were also pleased. The two food concessions sold out of some selections both days, and the supplies for the Children's Magical Forest had to be completely restocked for the second day. The Special Events were extremely well attended; John Adler's talk and demonstration attracted over 200 people. Bill Brown's Rattlesnake talk pulled in 100. Melodee James and Wayne Trimm's live Hawks and Owls Program easily reached over 200. Eric Marczak's flute playing was enjoyed by everyone, and the E S F Old Time Logging Techniques entertained many people, as did the Sunday Professional Lumberjack and Lumberjill Competition.

Almost \$10,000 was raised to produce the Fair. Of that amount \$3000 was spent on advertising with two area radio stations. Free TV spots, radio talk shows and over half a dozen feature articles in major newspapers, plus numerous articles and calendar listings were secured. Mary Binder, Publicity Chairman made over 500 phone calls in one month.

It is too early to know the exact amount, but it looks as though the Fair will have raised over \$3500 to be used for future forestry educational programs.

The tireless efforts and ingenuity of DEC State foresters: Ron Cadieux and John Hastings along with the 20 volunteers from agencies, industry and landowners are all to be commended.

However, beyond the financial success and the countless hours of volunteer time given, the Fair again proved that cooperation and communication between the various branches of the forest family is not only possible, but highly successful and productive for all.

Continuation of the Family Forest Fair is of utmost importance to New York State. The message to the public about the benefits of forest management to clean air, clean water, erosion control, enhanced wildlife habitat, recreation and timber production must be available. It provides an important counterpoint to preservation at-

titudes. The Committee recommends that it be produced in other areas of NYS, and will be happy to meet with any interested groups. All kinds of "tips", sample letters, forms, and contact names will be provided.

## Historic Forest Use In Central Europe

By Jane Geisler, LHC Member

This was the subject of an interesting seminar I attended at the Institute of Eco-systems Studies in Millbrook. Dr. Gerhard Glatzel from the Institute of Forest Ecology in Vienna, Austria gave this talk illustrated by Nineteenth Century pictures.

In the early 19th Century, canals and tunnels were constructed to get logs to the Danube River. Left-over branches were gathered by the poor people and charcoal was the fuel for the wealthy. Elaborate laws were passed in an attempt to control consumption of the forests for fear of running out of trees.

In an early 1842 textbook Johann Hundeshagen suggested: ask the trees how they like to be treated. He also started early experiments. His book listed products of the forest:

- Bark for tanning, fibers and dyes
- Sap for tar and pitch
- Fruit for seeds, fodder, drinks and oil
- Grasses and sedges for furniture, pasture and hunting
- Peat, stone and clay
- Ash for glass, soap and potash

Branches of living trees were even harvested, resulting in deformed trees. "Buchenstreunutzung" (litter gathering) was a labor intensive activity. With huge double rakes the forest litter was gathered and used for compost. But, in the forest stripped of litter, eroded areas and nitrogen-depleted soils resulted. Aristocracy kept some areas for private hunting preserves, thereby causing over-population of game which impacted the forest. There were methods of using the forest for agriculture. Burning, spreading the ashes, planting oats for 3 years and then spruce seeds.

With the use of chemical fertilizers and genetic improvements occurring, the old systems of litter-raking and harvesting copses ended. This look at early forest activities before gas, oil and chemical fertilizers showed how intensively the land was used.

# Forest Land Property Tax Survey

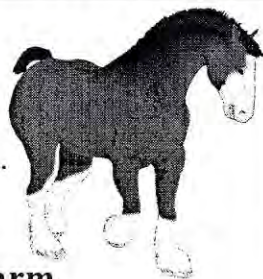
For the past 6 months NYFOA has participated in a Forest Property Tax Coalition to develop legislative initiatives to address the growing taxation threat facing forest landowners. In support of this coalition, NYFOA is presently gathering statewide information on the taxes paid per acre on undeveloped 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	Participation in 480 or 480-a	County	# 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; NYFOA; 703 Johnsonville Road; Johnsonville, NY 12094

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# ASK A FORESTER

By Steve Davison

**Q** I have a problem with a plant on my property that is spreading. I can't seem to get rid of it. I've been told that it is bamboo. It has nice white flowers in late August.

**A** Japanese bamboo is a nonnative plant that is also called Japanese knotweed, Mexican bamboo, false bamboo and Japanese fleece flower. It is a member of the buckwheat family with the scientific name of *Polygonum cuspidatum* (Sieb. & Zucc.). We will discuss the Japanese bamboo in this article and hopefully explore some other invaders such as buckthorn and black swallowwort in future issues.

Japanese knotweed is a native plant of Japan and was introduced into the United States in the early to mid 1800's and has spread to many parts of North America. As with most exotics, it was probably introduced as an ornamental plant. Japanese bamboo is a perennial broadleaf plant which grows in clumps. The stems are woody-like and are reminiscent of bamboo. Knowing a little about the plant will help us understand how to control it.

You can find this plant growing up to 10 feet tall on many roadsides along guard rails, on dry soil, on wet soil, in the sun and in the shade. Once the plant is established, it spreads rapidly in several ways. The bamboo can spread from its long rhizomes. Mowing may actually spread the plant unless the cuttings are removed from the site. The seeds can be carried by water and by the wind. Another way of propagation that I know of is from the deposition

of spoil from roadside ditch work. If there is any plant material in this spoil, the bamboo will spread. I am aware of one area of bamboo in our state forests where there is no other Japanese bamboo for miles. The plants came from ditch material brought from far away. This patch of bamboo gets mowed down each year and it continues to flourish.

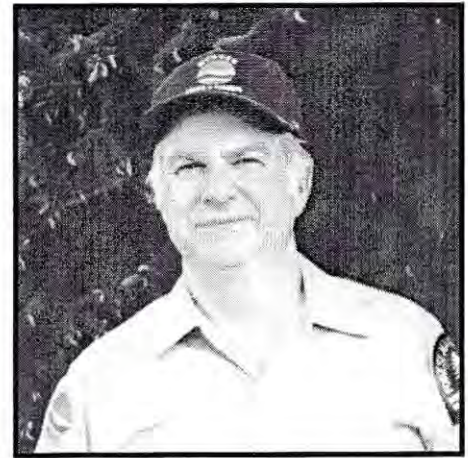
Controlling and eliminating this hardy plant is a problem. There are **mechanical** and **chemical** control methods that can be used. Each method will have varied success.

Digging the plant may work with small areas of long as all roots and are re-Any intact the soil potential and grow O n e suggested of control says to dis-harvested and bagged material into dumpsters. Of course, when the material in the dumpster is hauled away and dumped, the bamboo will probably start growing there.

There are some chemical treatments that may work. These are not my personal recommendations but are offered as possible solutions. When using any chemical you should read and follow label instructions.

**Stump treatment:** Where it is important to protect desirable surrounding vegetation, chemicals can be applied to the cut stumps of the plant. A 25% solution of **glyphosate** (trade names - Roundup, Rodeo, & Pondmaster) and water can be applied to stems that have been cut to within 2 inches of the ground. A foliar spray may be needed later to control resprouts and any new seedlings. A 25% solution of **triclopyr** (trade names - Garlon, Turflon, Access, Crossbow, Grazon & ET) and water can be applied in a similar fashion to cut stumps. A follow up spray may also be needed to handle any new growth.

**Foliar Spray Treatment:** On large populations of the plant foliar sprays can be effective. A 2% solution of **glyphosate** and water or **triclopyr** and water can be



Steve Davison

sprayed to thoroughly wet the leaves. The solution should not be applied so heavy that it drips from the leaves. The spraying should be done when the surrounding desirable vegetation is dormant and the temperature is above 65 F. October through November is suggested although this may be difficult in our climate. A 0.5% solution of non-ionic surfactant is also recommended to allow penetration of the leaf cuticle.

As with most of our pests, this one seems to also have its good points. The white flowers of the bamboo are very attractive both to us and bees. The plant is very good for holding soil and preventing erosion. The plant can be eaten especially when young. The young stalks of Japanese bamboo are said to look like asparagus and taste something like rhubarb. It is recommended that the shorter than 12" young shoots be steamed for three to four minutes. Add butter and salt and serve as a vegetable. This is not my recipe nor would I eat the bamboo. I also don't particularly like asparagus. There are even some reports that Japanese bamboo has some medicinal value. Perhaps someone could persuade Jane Sorensen Lord to look at the taste and medicine of the Japanese Bamboo. (See NYFO 34:4, 19; July 1995 for recipes and article by John Braubitz.)



John Braubitz

Early growth on older plant

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# TAX FREE EXCHANGES

By David J. Colligan

While attending the fall meeting, I was asked to write an article about those hardworking commercial property owners who have, through the sweat of their brows, created a "sweat equity" in their commercial real estate. These owners are faced with the difficult prospect of how to dispose of their property without paying an enormous tax burden. Many of these people have been awakened in the middle of the night by tenants with minor complaints, have been climbing on icy roofs to break up ice dams, and have otherwise spent a lifetime fixing, patching, repairing, and creating equity in their commercial real estate. Now, looking back at an asset that has been fully depreciated for tax purposes, they wonder how they can continue their real estate investment without the high intensity maintenance and management that goes into commercial and residential investments. Most commercial real estate owners who are members of our NYFOA organization would look kindly upon a quiet investment in productive timberland. Trees do not telephone in the middle of the night or fail to send in rent checks on time. In fact, just the opposite happens, trees quietly provide income without complaints.

The good news is that the Internal Revenue Code Section 1031 permits a tax free exchange of "like kind" property. The catch is that the property must be held for investment or business purposes and must be similar in nature to the property you are transferring. While many like kind exchanges and forced conversion transactions (I.R.C. 1041) are beyond the scope of this article, this article will focus on what constitutes like kind property for a tax free exchange of commercial property into forest property.

The first thing to remember is that an apartment building full of residential tenants is considered to be like kind property with a forested track populated by trees that may or may not have value for timber purposes. The Internal Revenue Service has deemed all real estate to be of a like kind. Trees, while standing, are considered real property and therefore would be no different than a building located on commercial property. Many successful real estate entrepreneurs use the designation of like kind property to transfer appreciated wealth from one investment to another. At a Federal tax rate of 20% and a state rate of 7%, you can acquire approximately 27% more

property than you could otherwise afford. Think of the buying power if you had 27% more cash available to purchase land!

While a like kind exchange appears very generous, the rules of compliance are very exacting and strictly enforced. Typically, anyone who wants to participate in a like kind exchange would identify a property they wish to exchange, determine the approximate value of the property, and then identify property they wish to exchange or "swap into," so that the transaction can proceed in the time frame allowed. As a general rule, "swapping down" has too many negative tax implications to be helpful. Therefore, "swapping up" to a more expensive property is the usual transaction in a like kind exchange. Once the properties have been identified, the exchanger must decide whether they want to proceed with a two-sided or three-sided transaction.

In a two-sided transaction, the investor goes out and finds a buyer for his commercial property. The investor then goes out and finds replacement property. The buyer acquires the replacement property from a third party. Finally, the investor and the buyer exchange deeds to the properties, together with whatever additional consideration is necessary to close the transaction. At the end of the day, the investor now owns replacement property and has not realized any income on the transaction.

A three-sided transaction is similar to a two-sided transaction; however, a third party "facilitator" is used to hold property essentially in trust while replacement property is located and acquired. The rules of locating replacement property require the replacement property to be identified within 45 days and received within the earlier of 180 days after the taxpayer transfers the property or the due date of the transferor's tax return for the taxable year in which the transfer of the relinquished property takes place. Generally, facilitators charge a fee for their services, which usually starts around 10%. If the investor cannot identify the replacement property within the 45 days and receive the property within the specified time period, the tax free transaction is nullified, and taxes, penalties, and interest must be paid.

As with all tax-advantaged transactions, there are certain negatives that must be evaluated prior to entering into the transaction. A major negative of a tax free exchange is that the tax basis does not get "stepped up" to the value of the new prop-

erty, but remains at the historical tax basis, increased by whatever additional consideration is paid for the replacement property. Since some portion of every timber sale is a return of basis and therefore not taxable, future timber sales may result in more gain than had the property been purchased outright. Another negative consideration is that the transaction must be reported to the I.R.S. on a Form 8824 that accompanies the income tax return for the year in which the transaction occurred. If the Form 8824 is not filed with the current year's return, the entire transaction's tax free status will be in jeopardy. Furthermore, the like kind exchange rules may not be beneficial if a large amount of additional consideration is transferred as part of the exchange. This additional consideration, called "boot," is taxable even in a tax free exchange. "Boot" consists of mortgages that are paid off as part of the transaction and other consideration (money and property) received by the transferring investor. Therefore, anytime there is a mortgage on the property to be exchanged, the transaction should be reviewed by a tax professional to explain what the tax benefits are prior to entering into the transaction. Even though there are some negative aspects to using a like kind exchange, the benefits almost always outweigh the negatives in a properly structured transaction.

Much like brain surgery, it is not recommended that you do this alone, but only with the help of a competent tax professional.

*David J. Colligan is a partner in the firm of Watson, Bennett, Colligan, Johnson & Schechtler, L.L.P. He can be reached at (716) 852-3540. He was assisted in the preparation of this article by Roy Cunningham, an associate in his office, who received his Masters of Laws in Taxation from the University of Denver.*

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# Turn In Poachers and Polluters—*The TIPP Program*

By Timothy Noga

The quality of our life is directly dependent on the quality of the environment and the natural resources we use and conserve. Fortunately New York is blessed with an abundance of natural resources for its people to use and enjoy. It is the responsibility of all the users to protect and conserve the environment and the natural resources wisely.

Unfortunately there are those who believe that our natural resources, whether public or privately owned, are there to exploit without regard. The whole resource suffers when this happens.

In the late 1980's the NYS Conservation Council (the largest state grassroots conservation organization) and the Division of Law Enforcement of the NYS DEC recognized a need. The need was to gain support and assistance from the general public in the protection of the environment and natural resources of New York. TIPP NY, Inc. was formed to meet the need.

The mission of TIPP is to:

- **Educate citizens** regarding their responsibility to protect and conserve the environment and natural resources of NYS.
- **Anonymously recognize** those individuals that exceed their responsibility to protect the environment and natural resources of New York State.
- **Generate funding** to achieve our mission.

TIPP NY, Inc. conducts programs to meet the goals of this mission.

TIPP NY, Inc., in a memorandum of understanding with the Law Enforcement Division of DEC, established the TIPP line. The TIPP line is a toll free 24 hour telephone hotline where a possible environmental violation can be reported anonymously. It is the only hotline in the nation where both natural resource and environmental violations may be reported.

A TIPP hotline caller reports the possible violation to the operator. This information is recorded and assigned a case complaint number. The information is dispatched to the appropriate Environmental Conservation Officer (ECO) for investigation of the complaint. After the investigation is made, the ECO may fill out a TIPP recognition application. The application is forwarded to the NYSDEC Law Enforcement Division Director for review.

When the TIPP organization meets, it reviews the application and approves the reward recognitions. Rewards currently range to a maximum \$1,000 per case.

The reward recognition is based on the value of the information provided and the potential risk the caller went through to provide the information. The reward is forwarded to the caller via the investigating ECO.

TIPP is operated jointly. NYSDEC operates the toll-free hotline. The TIPP NY, Inc organization maintains the TIPP fund and awards any of the recognitions approved.

TIPP NY, Inc. is a not for profit charitable organization and tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

The members, officers and TIPP NY, Inc. are volunteers. They do not receive any compensation for their services.

The officers and trustees of TIPP NY, Inc are elected yearly by its members. Any current member or member representative may be elected to serve.

Funds for TIPP NY, Inc are provided through memberships and donations. NO TAXES or CONSERVATION LICENSE FEES are used to fund the rewards or operations of TIPP NY, Inc.

TIPP NY, Inc has three levels of memberships for those wanting to support this worthy program:

**Individual Members (\$5.00/year)** are persons that support TIPP NY, Inc and it's goals. They have no vote, receive periodic updates and are welcome to participate at meetings.

**Associates Members (\$25.00/year)** are groups or organizations that support TIPP NY, Inc and it's goals. They have no vote receive periodic updates and are welcome to participate at meetings.

**Voting Members (\$50.00)** are groups or organizations that support TIPP NY, Inc and it's goals. They have a vote at TIPP meetings.

If you have observed an Environmental Conservation Law violation try to get as much as the information as possible without putting yourself in danger.

Try to note the following details:

**SUSPECT(s):** Name, address, physical description

**NUMBERS:** Back tags, license plates, registration, permits

**VEHICLES:** Make, model, year, color, body damage, location

**LOCATION:** Area, town, village, county, street address, body of water

**WHEN:** Date(s) and time(s) incident(s) occurred

**VIOLATION:** Description of what has happened

**REPORT IT:** Contact the nearest law enforcement agency (ECO, Forest Ranger, Sheriff, State Police) or call the TIPP hotline at 800-TIPP-DEC (800-847-7332). You do not have to call the TIPP line to be considered for a reward.

Cases include trafficking in endangered species, polluting drinking water sources, poaching fish and game, improper disposal of waste, illegal issuing of conservation licenses and timber theft.


At the April meeting, the TIPP NY, Inc. board paid its first reward for **timber theft** in NY. At this writing another case has been submitted for reward consideration.

The **timber theft** reward involved adjacent landowners observing their absentee neighbor's forest being cut by some individuals. When they questioned the cutters, they were told that the loggers had the landowner's permission to remove the trees.

The absentee landowner could not be contacted by the neighbor. Information was gathered and reported to DEC law enforcement officials.

DEC apprehended the suspects. The cutters pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor. They received jail time and large fines.

The callers received a \$1,000 reward from TIPP NY Inc. This will not replace the valuable timber resource that was poached. It may help stimulate additional reporting of the under reported cases of timber theft.

For further information write to: TIPP NY, Inc PO Box 12786 Albany, NY 12212-2786. 

*Tim Noga is Secretary of the Cayuga County Federation of Conservation Clubs and a Director of TIPP NY, Inc.*

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# My Wake Up Call About Tree Farmers

By Rodney M. Jones

**T**ree Farm has been the cheapest and most effective tool that I have found to keep jobs coming in to earn income for my family. I think Tree Farm is probably the sexiest, best kept secret in the industry. I can't understand why anybody trying to grow, buy, or sell trees is *not* involved in Tree Farm. Most of the forest industry's wood comes from **Certified Tree Farms**. So if you are not supporting the Tree Farm program, you are asleep.

Every time my clients get their Tree Farm Magazine in the mail, they think of me. They get excited about the next time we plan on doing something on the property. Whether it's doing TS1 work, painting boundary lines, or having an exciting timber sale. In fact, in my area I've got Tree Farm so active that most people confuse Tree Farm with the New York State Forest Tax Law. I think that's **great**, because it just means more work for me and more income for my ever-growing family.

I used to have a huge advertising budget, then I discovered that I could get free brochures and a free magazine for my clients. The free Tree Farm sign to place on all of our clients' properties gives them a sense of pride for all the work that they've either done themselves or paid me to do. They feel great about doing something good for their land. Their kids will also be receiving benefits from enhanced wildlife habitat, recreational trails, income from the sale of some of their trees, and now they get all mushy over the fact that they are actually enhancing the quality of their water from what they do on their Tree Farm.

Every time I take a photograph of a local Tree Farmer being presented with his Tree Farm sign, the newspaper eats it up. There I am with my pearly whites in the newspaper, my client telling everybody that he meets, about their **forester** and how I got him involved in this program that helps their **family make and save lots of money**.

One of my hardest jobs is keeping clients informed, or just dropping them a note from time to time. Under the Tree Farm Program I don't need to do that, because the National Headquarters sends out a mailing to them, informing our clients of what's going on. And every time our clients get a

note from National they think of me, and give me a call and tell me to get on our "next job". Actually, now that I think about it, I think Tree Farm is one of my biggest problems because its given me too much work to do.

Every five years Tree Farms need to be recertified. It's an automatic notice to my client that we need to look things over again and schedule more work for my "guys" if it's necessary. It is also a time to ask about their neighbors and their potential interest in the program. Even if they don't know their neighbors, I use my existing Tree Farmers as an introduction to talk to their neighbors about what we are doing in their area, and thought they might be interested too.

If you are not involved in Tree Farm you need to wake up! It's a program for every forester, technician, owner, saw mill, logger, broker, veneer buyer, and wood manufacturer out there. If you can't be involved with Tree Farm with your time, you can help support the program with your money. Most states are non-profit 501(c)3 corporations. They would greatly appreciate annual contributions to their program. There are several volunteers throughout each state, and they need your help, to do recertifications, mailings, put on promotional demonstrations, educational workshops,

and to get that Tree Farm sign noticed. The sign indicates landowners do things with wisdom, so that all of their practices will benefit our families forever. If you are not already involved you can start by contacting Debbie Gill (800-836-3566) and ask how you can become a Certified Inspecting Forester, a Certified Tree Farmer, or how you can become a supporter of the Tree Farm Program. Get involved. We always have a lot of fun together. It's a place where all of us involved with the trees can come together and not feel like we have to stand up for our own self interests. It's all to promote wise management of the forests on land that is growing and selling trees for our use. The more of us that we have together, the more jobs you'll have to do. So come on board and we can do the job together that you have been trying to do all alone.



*Rod Jones is the father of 6, and the owner of Northeast Timber Services in Walton, New York. He has been an inspecting forester since 1980. He is a member of the Association of Consulting Foresters, and is a Certified Forester with the Society of American Foresters. He serves on the National Operating Committee, and was the 1996 Northeast Regional Outstanding Tree Farm Inspecting Forester. He holds the Gold Plus Hard Hat Award.*



## NYFOA SPECIALS

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
Window Decals	0.50	100% Cotton T-Shirts	9.00
Member Sign	2.00	Long-sleeved Shirts	13.00
Pewter Lapel Pins	4.00	Sweatshirts	16.00

**PLEASE PROVIDE SIZE & PHONE NO.**

# THE FALL MEETING

## THE FRIDAY NIGHT PANEL

By Ron Pedersen, NYFOA's Vice President

There were three panelists who gave their particular perspectives on changes in the forest industry and the impact on forest landowners.

**Jon Howard** is Business Development Manager for the Procter & Gamble Paper Products plant at Mehoopany, PA. This plant will be the last of the P&G plants to convert locally derived pulp wood to plantation-grown Brazilian eucalyptus. The

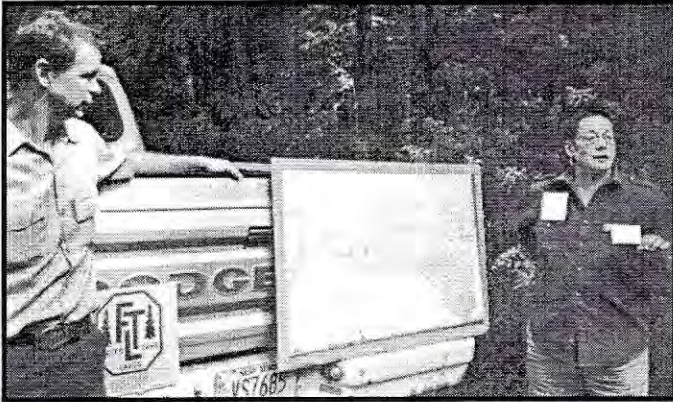
give him an instant course on what he needed to know in order to be a contact to all the suppliers P&G is setting a drift with the changes in pulp procurement.

Jon was a procurement guy originally. I met him at the state SFI implementation committee, and he clearly had spent some time with PA in getting their SFI going.

**Brian Knox** is a procurement forester, in charge of all the round wood side of Coastal Lumber's NY plants, but also into public policy practicalities of doing busi-

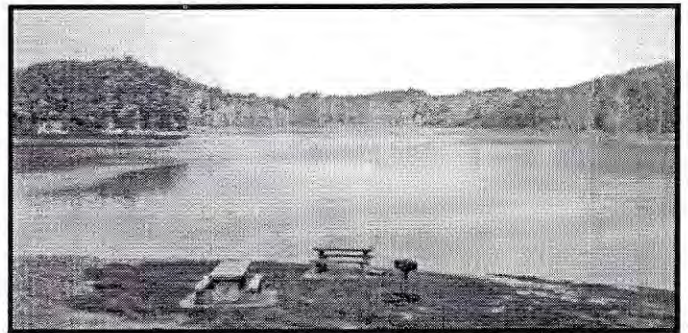
daily facing changing demands and "outside" forces such as P&G pulp policies, Lyondale, Far East markets, our West Coast problems impacting the East Coast, etc.

**Ken Kasprzyk**, DEC Senior Forester, Utilization and Marketing, Olean, reminded us of the importance of NYFOA helping to advance the notion of property tax reform (and other public policy issues.) He suggested that the new STAR program offered an opportunity for forest landowners to obtain a more reasonable and equitable leveling of the property tax burden. The

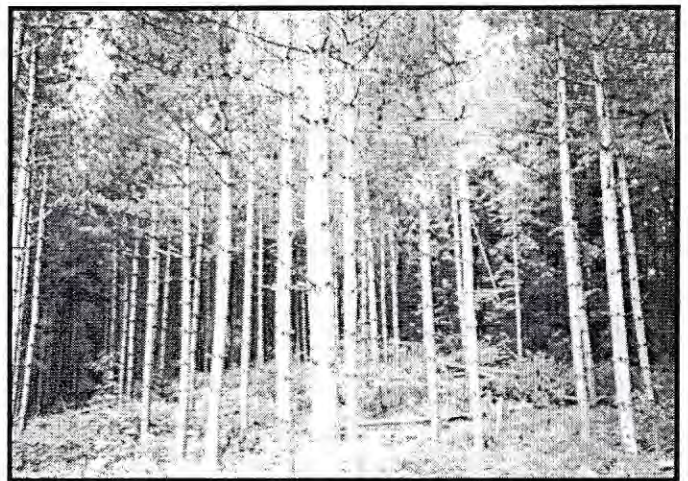


Above, Mark Keister, DEC Sr. Forester looks on while Irene Szabo describes the Finger Lakes Trail.

Below, a grapevine is culled from a black walnut stand.



Above, a State Recreation Area where we lunched.  
Below, a 30 year old managed stand of red pine.



change will affect the harvest of low grade forest products as far away as Syracuse. He said his role was to be an advocate for P&G suppliers, to promote the regional forest industry, and to market the region to others outside the region. He viewed his scope in terms of concentric circles.

During his comments, he was frank about the industry, and about having to spend personally a lot of time learning about bigger picture relationships about which he was not earlier familiar. No one could

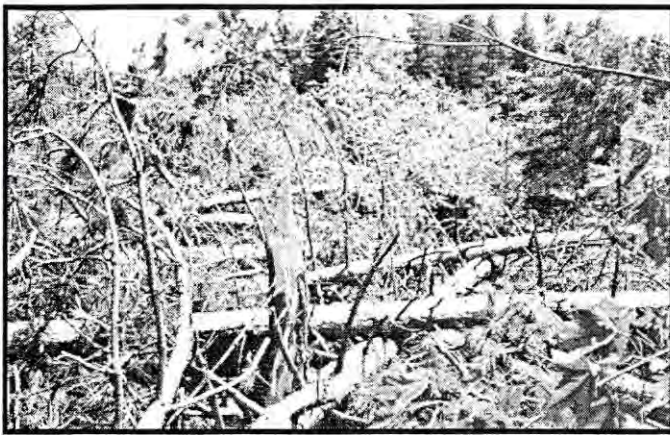
ness, i.e., SFI and Coastal. (While P&G is an AF&PA member and therefore committed to SFI from the top, Coastal is not and therefore must look at SFI state by state where they operate to see to what extent they want to sign on. In NY, they have signed on).

I think his comments reflected a somewhat narrower view than Jon's. His thoughts were probably what one would expect to hear from a bright guy working within a relatively small wood shed and

point he was trying to make, I believe, was that under STAR the "lost" taxes are made up by the State, not by the other property tax payers in the jurisdiction. He stressed that NYFOA members have a role as members of the community to pay attention to what is going on and speak out when appropriate.

Overall, we were seeking to get some perspective on how the folks we depend on to buy our wood products see things from where they sit. I thought the three speakers contrasted nicely, which was the idea.





*Dave Forness, NYSDEC Supervising Forester, Cortland Office*

## NY Storms and State Forests

By Mark Levanway

**T**he tornado which tore through Central New York and the Capital District on May 31, 1998, also had considerable impact on many state forests. State forests (also known as reforestation areas) in Otsego and Chenango, Tompkins, Tioga and Oswego counties received damage. Approximately 2600 acres received severe damage, with lesser scattered damage occurring on additional undetermined acreage. One 512 acre state forest in Otsego county had 490 acres totally flattened!

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation forestry staff immediately began assessing the damage and preparing salvage sales. Estimating timber volume in areas of severe blowdown, is an extremely difficult and dangerous task. However, DEC staff were able to estimate the volume in each of these sales by using a variety of cruising methods or by individual tree counts. To this date, 2,340 acres of blowdown have been either sold or put up for competitive bidding. The remaining 260 acres will not be salvaged either due to low value, damage to the resource, or the decision to allow certain areas to respond naturally to this event. These sales

will return revenues of \$1,300,000 to the state. This, unfortunately, is probably about 40-50% of the value prior to the storm. The loss in value is due to breakage of stems, staining of the wood during hot weather, and the difficulty in logging material which is in piles. Softwood trees are particularly susceptible to staining and attack by wood boring insects during hot summer weather conditions. These forests contain a high percentage of softwoods which were planted primarily by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's. The total volume salvaged will be approximately 2.5 million board feet and 40,000 cords.

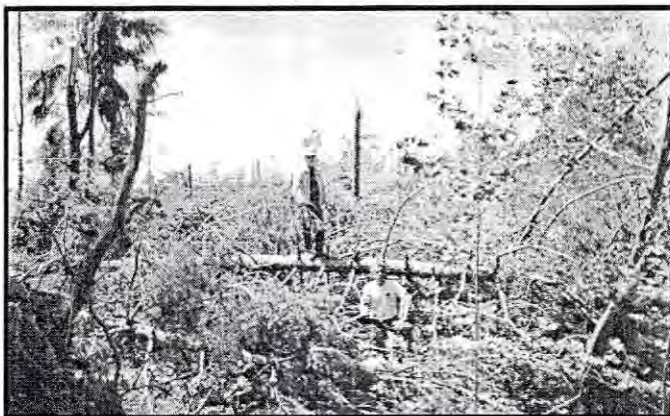
An interesting sidelight to this story are comments our staff have received about how much better the areas look where salvage operations have been completed. These salvage operations leave the sites in much the same condition as after a planned clearcut, which some have criticized for their unattractiveness. One thing is very evident, view sheds are currently open which have not been visible for decades. Many of these sites will be left to regenerate naturally to native hardwood species. At this time there are plans to replant approximately 400 acres to softwoods such

as Norway Spruce and Larch.

This storm is only one of many which have impacted state forests in recent years. The 1995 blowdown which impacted much of the Adirondack region of New York, also damaged many state forests outside of the Adirondack Park. That storm resulted in approximately 17,000 acres of salvage sales in St. Lawrence, Lewis, Jefferson and Oneida counties. Last winter's ice storm resulted in moderate to severe crown breakage on over 100,000 acres of state forests, outside of the forest preserve, across the entire north country. We have begun salvage operations here as well and will be dealing with assessing damage, and determining where salvage is necessary for many years to come. State forests were spared impact by the Labor Day storm which hit the Syracuse-Oneida area, as it traversed an area where no state forests exist.

*Mark Levanway is a Supervising Forester at Albany in the Bureau of Public Forests. The accompanying photos were all taken of Reforestation Areas #5 & #24 (about 25% of which were conifer plantations) in Chenango County. This area laid waste was some 750 acres.*

*Tom Wolfe, DEC Bureau Chief of Public Forests (r) & Dave Forness*



# THE CRYPTIC WORLD OF LEAFMINERS

By Douglas C. Allen

One of the most fascinating habits displayed by insects is the adaptation many species have made to life within a leaf. Leaf mining occurs in all four of the largest and most evolutionarily advanced insect groups; moths and butterflies, beetles, flies, and wasps. Presumably, this behavior offers some protection from natural enemies, provides a degree of stability in terms of temperature and moisture

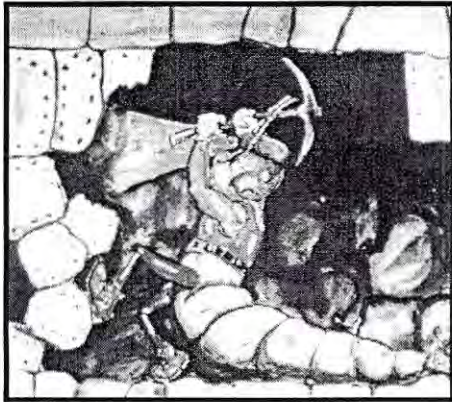


Fig. 1. This cartoon illustrates the feeding behavior of leafminers.

conditions in the insects' immediate environment, and assures a readily accessible supply of food.

**What is a leafminer?** - This term is used in reference to any species of insect whose larva (the immature stage that feeds) spends its life between the epidermal or outer layers of a leaf (Fig. 1). Leafminers can be found on most woody plants and many spe-

cies of herbaceous vegetation. The larval stage of several defoliators that feed on broadleaved or needle-bearing trees may begin life as a leafminer, but eventually they vacate the mine and feed in a more typical manner exposed on the surface or margin of the leaf. For example, when young caterpillars of the infamous spruce budworm emerge from their overwintering site, they may begin feeding by mining one or two host needles if buds are too hard to penetrate. In this case, the young caterpillar is a true leafminer for only a short time; older caterpillars are more typical leaf feed-

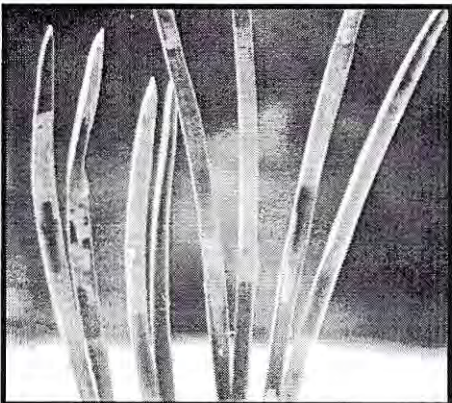


Fig. 2. Light brown areas indicate parts of needles mined by lodgepole needleminer.

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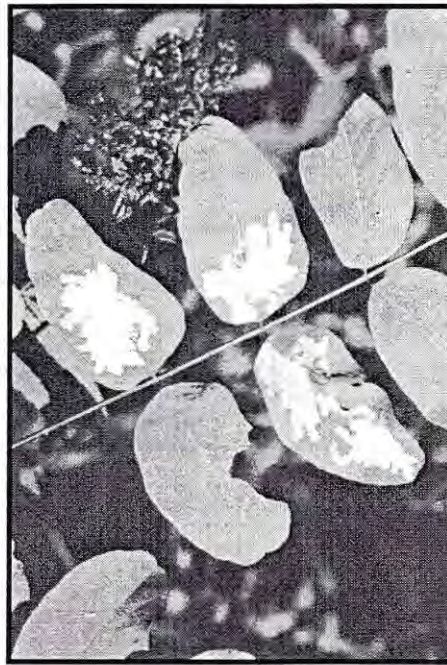


Fig. 3. Black locust foliage with blotches caused by locust leafminer.

**Leafminer biology** - Leafminers generally deposit their eggs in or on suitable foliage and upon hatching the young larvae (lar-vee) bore into the leaf. When feeding is complete, the insect transforms into an adult within the leaf, or it may vacate the leaf and undergo this change in the soil or litter beneath the host plant, depending on the species of leafminer. For example, both the lodgepole needleminer (Fig. 2) and locust leafminer (Fig. 3) complete development through their adult stage (moth and

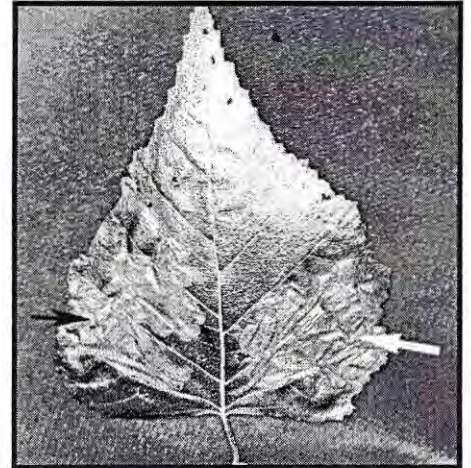
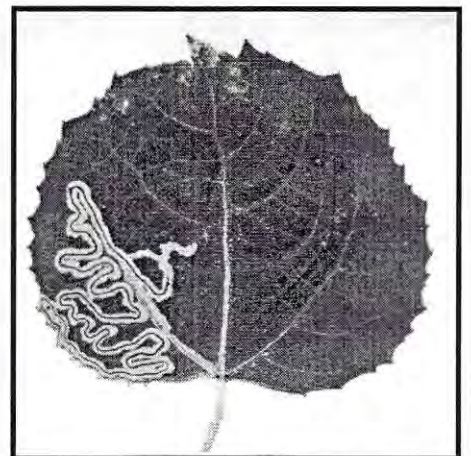


Fig. 4. Birch leafminer. Arrows indicate brownish, blister-like mines.

beetle, respectively) within the leaf, but mature larvae of the birch leafminer (Fig. 4) abandon leaves and wasps are formed in the soil beneath the host.

**Appearance** - The size, pattern and location of a leaf mine are usually very useful diagnostic characters for identifying leafminers. Typically, mines are blotch-like, linear or appear as blisters (Figs. 2-5). The mined area of a leaf is usually a shade of brown and translucent when held to the light, because all of the chlorophyll bearing tissue at that spot has been consumed by the insect. The thin skin or epidermis of a leaf does not contain this substance.


Fig. 5. A linear leafminer on aspen. Black stripe in center of mine is fecal material.



The adult, be it a moth, beetle, fly, or wasp, is tiny and rarely seen. Larvae are especially modified to live and feed in a confined space. Most are distinctly flattened, legless and their chewing mouthparts are projected forward rather than downward to facilitate feeding in their confined habitat.

**Importance** - Usually, leafminers are merely curiosities and should be of little concern to the forest owner. However, the feeding damage can attract much attention because of the conspicuous discoloration and, in rare instances of very heavy damage, premature leaf fall. Birch leafminer (Fig. 4) often is a serious pest of both ornamental and wild birch, because high populations may weaken the host and make it susceptible to more damaging insects. An infestation of locust leafminer (Fig. 3) can significantly discolor foliage of black locust, but generally trees recover. Outbreaks of the lodgepole needleminer (Fig. 2), on

the other hand, last for many years and are capable of killing lodgepole pine over large areas of the western United States and Canada.

In addition to black locust, several other trees that occur in New York are frequently infested with leafminers; for example, sugar maple, oaks, aspen, cherry, basswood, white cedar, hemlock, and spruces. Oak especially is subject to outbreaks resulting in extensive discoloration and untimely loss of foliage. 

*This is the 41st 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 following address: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dlf/privland/linkspag.html>*

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# PLANTS AND THE FALL MEETING

By Jane Sorensen Lord, PHD, OTR, ND

*"You mean you ate it and then you ask me what it does? (But if you can ask it's not deadly!)"*

*"How in the hell am I supposed to know what it is? It lives in Bath, my plants live in Westbrookville!"*

*"You fell in the woods and hurt your knee, wrapped sphagnum moss around it and you could walk out with all your gear? Wow! Far out!"*

*"The dosage for ginkgo? Well, look on the bottle. Oh, you made a tincture from your own tree!"*

And so I came home from the fall meeting and hit the books to quell the thoughts your questions or comments evoked.

Indian Herbology of North America, Alma R. Hutchens (Shambhala Publications, Boston and London) is one of the herbals you should have and can buy at most bookstores. She not only covers all the standard field herbs, but also many plants and trees from our North East For-



*Solomon's Seal*

est. The book is well-written, well organized and easy to use. She tosses in little tidbits of history and lore.

Solomon's seal is a medicinal plant. The berries are edible and in accord with your experience, taste pretty good. The medicinal part is the rhizome. It is cut and boiled and taken internally for healing broken bones, like boneset or comfrey is used. Topically, the fresh rhizome can be used to remove freckles or skin discoloration. It is also used to heal bleeding wounds—like having yarrow in the forest. If you do need it to staunch a wound, be sure and peel the rhizome so you don't introduce more dirt.

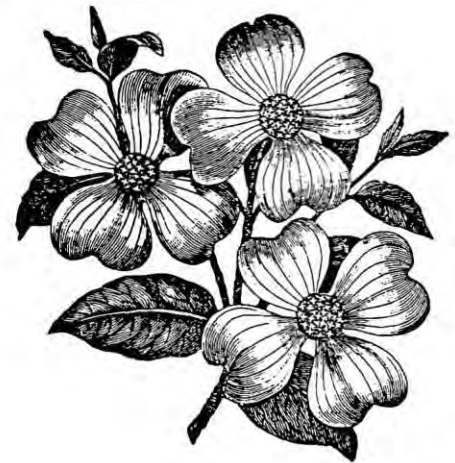
The unidentifiable (by me) plant was a grey twig (or osier) dogwood. While I found no mention of it as a medicinal shrub, I was interested to find out that the American Flowering (or green osier) dogwood is medicinal. The spring flowers work like chamomile to relax, soothe and calm the mind, and settles stomachs. The bark is a substitute for the Peruvian cinchona which is used to treat malaria. I've mentioned before that trembling aspen can treat malaria, too! I wonder if they are species of trees that grew when the climate was warm in the North and there were malaria mosquitoes. It seems that most medicinal plants heal us or protect us from problems that come up in the environment.

I had to plow through five herbals before I found reference to moss. It was in the chapter, "Plants containing antibiotics" in Guide to Medicinal Plants, Schauenberg and Paris, (Keats Publishing, Ct.). The book identifies the properties and constituents of medicinal plants. I usually use it as a back up reference to another herbal.

So there was moss. A very popular herb up until the turn of the century. It says that Hildegard of Bingen (I forget whether she practiced in the 14th or 15th century) used moss to reduce fever, strengthen the nerves and to dress wounds like we use cotton wool today.

And for dosages. The standard historical dose of a home made tincture is one tablespoon. And one wine glassful for an infusion or decoction.

A new book, by Steven G. Ottariano, R. Ph., a practicing clinical pharmacist in New Hampshire, details the modern dosages of



*Flowering Dogwood*

twenty popular herbs. More importantly he lists the active medical ingredients and contraindications with allopathic drugs or diseases. You can take this book to your medical doctor, and even if he knows nothing about herbs, he can understand what they do and if you should take them. The book is Medicinal Herbal Therapy: A Pharmacists Viewpoint (Nicloin Fields Publishing, NH). You can order it by phone at 1-800-431-1579. You will be able to order it through the Amazon Bookstore in a couple of months.

So there you go! Some answers, some references. And, please, use them before you eat wild plants. I hate to worry! ▲

*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](mailto:drjane@interserv.com) & Webpage: <http://members.aol.com/infolands/herb.html>*

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