

The New York

FOREST OWNER

A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association

March/April 1999



WILDLIFE MARSHES

REVISED BYLAWS' DEBATE

HARVEST CONSIDERATIONS

Volume 37 Number 2

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FOREST OWNERS
ASSOCIATION**

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Jill Cornell, President
703 Johnsonville Rd.
Johnsonville, NY 12094; 518/ 753-4336

Ronald Pedersen, Vice President
22 Vandenburg Lane,
Latham, NY 12110; 518/785-6061

Robert M. Sand, Recording Secretary
300 Church Street
Odessa, NY 14869-9703; 607/ 594-2130

Don Wagner, Treasurer
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Utica, NY 13502; 315/733-7391

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COVER:

*Marshland of Larry Lepak (See page 4.)
Photo by H. Storman.*

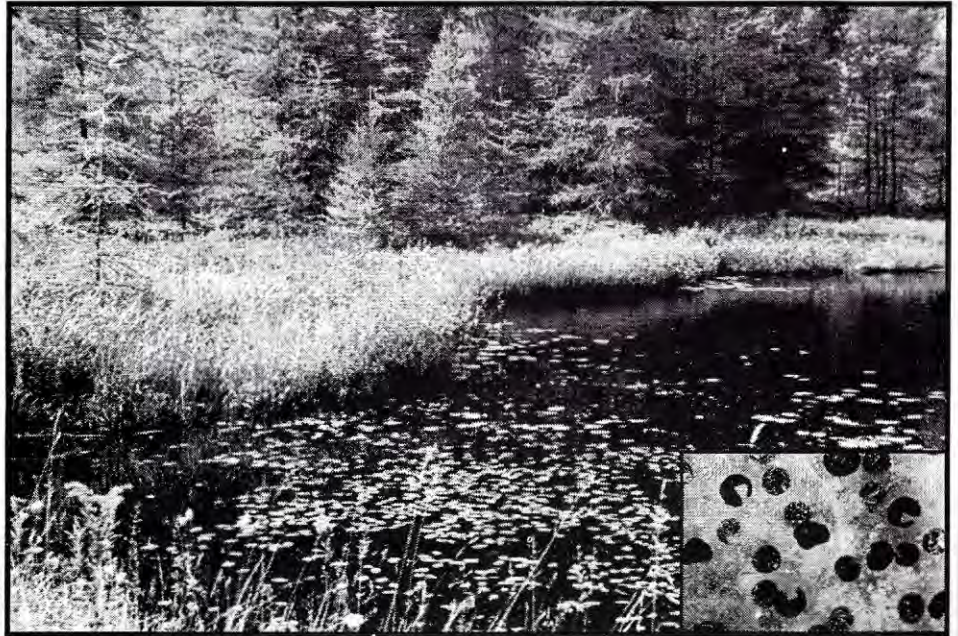
FOREST OWNER

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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.

WILDLIFE MARSHES



See page 4

Wood frog eggs.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jill Cornell

This is my last President's message, and I not only want to give you some tidbits of information, but to thank everyone for helping to make the past two years so successful. Even more, I thank everyone for all the fun times I've had meeting so many of you, and so many people in all the "branches" of the forest family.

Several people have asked me how the NYFOA Scholarship Fund at ESF is doing, and I am happy to report that there was a fund balance of \$17,616. at the beginning of January. Another \$500. is being donated by Family Forest Fair'98. An additional \$740 is available to fund an award for the 1998-99 academic year. Scholarship awards are determined by the Financial Aid Office and the Forestry Faculty, and awarded on the basis of scholarship, need and student activity. This year the award will probably be divided between two students. Contributions are always welcome.


Membership increased in all of our chapters in the last year. The Lower Hudson Chapter increased 81%, Capital District increased 45%; Allegheny Foothills, Southeastern Adirondack, and Southern Tier have all increased almost 20%. Congratulations! Did you know that 10% of our members live outside New York State?

American Tree Farm Program is working to get a commemorative US Postage stamp to promote forestry. Please add your signature to the list your chapter has.

Vice President Ron Pedersen has an excellent program of speakers lined up for our Annual Spring Meeting on April 24th at ESF. I hope all of you will be there to listen, learn, and enjoy the camaraderie of talking with other forest landowners.

Please be sure to **VOTE for directors.** (See ballot page 11)

Recently when I was talking with someone about NYFOA, I ran into the reaction of **amazement that private individuals actually owned forests.** It is not the first time that I have heard that reaction. She was even more amazed to learn that in NYS 80%. or 14 million acres of forest land is privately owned; and over 50% of the nation's forest land is privately owned. Some publicity is needed to set the record straight, and to tell the general public about all the benefits they get from our forests: clean air and water, recreation, aesthetics and wood products.

See you April 24th in Syracuse! 

REFOREST BUFFALO COMMITTEE

By David J. Colligan

Buffalo, New York has a proud urban forest history. Fifty years ago almost every street had a tree canopy shading both the pavement and the residences lining each street. Our numerous parks and parkways were designed by famous landscape artist Frederick Law Olmsted to reduce the stress of urban dwellers and to take full advantage of trees to achieve that goal. Our oldest neighborhoods were carefully manicured to assure that trees and overhead wires coexisted in peace and harmony. One city forester, Frank Karpick, even had a tree named after him, *Acer rubrum karpick*. a columnar form of red maple ideal for urban uses.

The native American Elm, *Ulmus Americana*, had an ideal vase-like specimen form, hardy nature, and gentle shade. The Dutch Elm Disease devastated our near monoculture requiring the removal of well in excess of 60,000 trees! However, at Buffalo's time of greatest need, Frank Karpick and his well-respected staff devised a plan to diversify the tree plantings by selecting different varieties for each street in the city. A huge planting effort was undertaken and thousands of trees were replanted. A citizen's group, the Buffalo Green Fund, helped raise funds and identify planting sites. Before these new plantings could get established, the city essentially disbanded its forestry department. From its peak at seventy employees, the city forestry department was reduced to zero! Many new plantings died of neglect, no trimming or

Seasons

By Dorothy Darling

Now strident winds stiffen the limb
As trees stand naked and stark,
And shadows deepen into night
With winter's breath chilling the dark.


Slow the advent of this season
As fall clings to its mild stay,
But now the pendulum has swung
And winter has begun its sway.

So now close all the doors tightly
And secure the windows against the cold
As winter may command a longer stay,
Being of persistent nature and bold.

Abrupt changing of the seasons
May seem a special kind of magic,
And to mortals it may appear mythical
But no change a t'all would be tragic.

maintenance was performed on the new or old stock and a once-ambitious plan died as a result of budget constraints and political apathy.

The city eventually realized the critical need to revitalize the forestry program. About two years ago, a new forester was hired, Peter Pasnik an ESF graduate, who immediately went to work to identify the most urgent forestry problems facing the city. The Buffalo Green Fund was re-energized and began to assist the replanting effort. This writer was asked to chair a citizen committee of the Buffalo Green Fund to coordinate all private efforts and to organize a spring and fall bare-root planting program to jump-start the replanting effort started by, but never completed, the wise forestry visionaries. We call our committee "Reforest Buffalo" as it clearly identifies our goal to complete the re-establishment of the forest that once enveloped the city.

The Releaf Conference has chosen Buffalo to host its annual meeting this summer on Friday, July 9th and Saturday July 10th. This year's theme is "Recreating The Urban Forest-Linking Past And Present." Anyone interested in attending this conference and/or helping in the spring planting the last week in April should contact this writer at my home address of 173 Woodbridge Avenue, Buffalo, N.Y. 14214 or at www.forestrylaw.com. 

NY Woodland Stewards, Inc.(NYWS) Receives Large Grant

In December, 1998 NYWS received a \$10,000 grant from the Robert Henry Wentorf Foundation. This funding will be used to develop and support forest management educational programs and events.

Although in existence for only a year, NYWS previously received donations of almost \$10,000 from several sponsors for Family Forest Fair'980. A significant number of NYFOA members have renewed their memberships through NYWS, many of whom added contributions to support NYWS educational activities.

NYFOA Chapters are invited to apply for funding from NYWS for special events/programs/outreach.

Wildlife Marshes: *Should You Add or Enhance One?*

By Lawrence Lepak

Does the sight of waterfowl gently feeding in the shallows of a pond or wetland ever excite you? Have you taken a child to a boggy area on an early spring day to see and feel the myriad of life forms emerging from their winter hiatus? If pleasures such as these are important to you, then perhaps you should consider adding or enhancing a wildlife marsh on your land.

In survey after survey, improvement of wildlife habitats on one's property consistently ranks in the top five landowner management goals. Typically, much of a landowner's habitat improvement effort is spent on a property's upland forest and brushland habitat, resulting in improved cover for wildlife species that inhabit such areas.

Many properties may also have a wet or swampy area, due to topography and runoff patterns or beaver activity. Most landowners tend to value these areas, but spend little or no effort in enhancing this habitat. Often, the total habitat improvement plan for these wet areas is the hanging of a few wood duck nesting boxes in trees surrounding the site. Seasonally, these wet areas often tend to dry up later in the summer, limiting the habitat value of the marsh for duck broods. Wet areas created by beaver dams also tend to change with time as rain storm events destroy the beaver dams draining the marsh or when the beavers abandon the site due to lack of food source. Professional habitat overseers have recognized for decades the need for and enhancing natural wetland sites by use of low height earthen dams and water control structures. The dam allows water to be impounded during spring thaw runoff conditions. The water control structure allows marsh water level adjustments as needed for maximum wildlife value.

The question is often asked by landown-

ers what is the difference between a manmade pond and wildlife marsh impoundments. A pond is a bathtub-like impoundment in which the water depth drops usually quickly from the shore line to cre-

ments serve as natural flood control reservoirs in which runoff is pooled, reducing downstream flow and the erosive forces of the water during storm events. The marshes improve downstream water quality by giving

the pooled water additional retention time which will help settle sediment and naturally break down agricultural nutrients contained in the runoff water.

Recreational use

of a marsh can be wide ranging. Wildlife observation and photography is a likely activity. Depending on the maximum water depth of the marsh, warm water species fish such as bass may be stocked, adding to the recreational value of the site. Canoeing can also be enjoyed, especially for aquatic plant and wildlife observation. A daily shoreline walk can serve as the doorway to an ever changing wondrous scene of color and texture. The Impressionist artist Monet received great inspiration from his water lily garden at Giverny, France. Each of us can receive similar inspiration from an hour or two spent at a vibrant wildlife marsh.

If the idea of building or enhancing a wildlife marsh excites you, your first step should be to assess your property for suitable marsh sites. The use of a USGS topographic map, which includes the property, can be quite helpful as wet areas are denoted by small hatched symbols as found in the legend. Areas of beaver activity are likely sites as well as sites that contain cattail or other aquatic vegetation.

A landowner can request help in the site assessment from the county District Conservationist of the USDA's National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The NRCS is actively trying to reverse the loss of valuable wetlands and marshes throughout the country through its Wetland Reserve Program (WRP). The US Department of the



Green Frog

Don Leopold

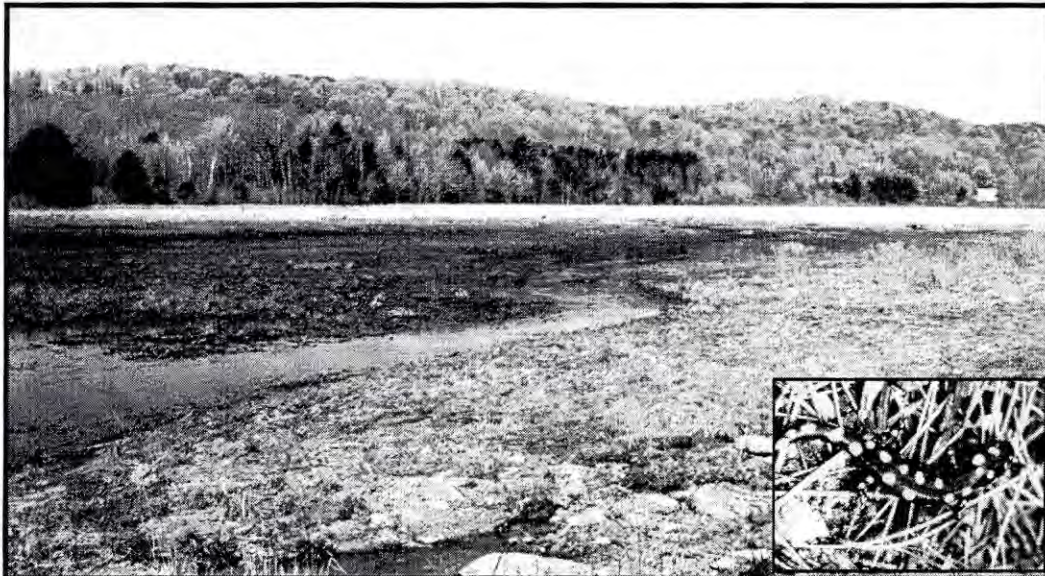
ate sufficient depth for swimming and fish habitat. A wildlife marsh on the other hand typically has fifty percent or greater of the surface area of the water at a maximum depth of eighteen inches. This shallow depth allows desirable species of aquatic vegetation to grow and serve as a waterfowl food source. The vast majority of the biological activity also takes place in this zone. This zone is where most of the "critters", such as insects, invertebrates, frogs, turtles, and snakes, live. This zone makes a marsh more productive for greater diversity in wildlife than a similar sized pond.

Manmade wildlife marshes usually vary in water depth throughout the planned marsh with the greatest depth adjacent to the earthen dam and varying depths across the remaining surface water acreage. If waterfowl nesting islands are created, earth is built up by a bulldozer to create a nesting island and the depth of water adjacent to the island is increased. An irregular bottom depth is paramount for providing the most varied wetland habitat. Shallow water depth, together with nutrients and sunlight, will produce a vigorous crop of aquatic vegetation.

Besides the aesthetic and waterfowl benefits already discussed, the addition of a wildlife marsh can result in a number of other benefits for a landowner and his downstream neighbors. Marsh impound-

Interior in the National Wetland Inventory estimates that sixty percent of the original wetlands in New York state have been lost. Through this program, the NRCS may actually pay as much as 100 percent of the property's agricultural value of the property and as much as

H. Storman



Spotted Salamander

Todd Willis

100 percent of the restoration costs of a marsh site for wetlands that have been converted to agricultural uses. NRCS Field offices serve all counties in New York. The phone number of your local office is listed under "United States Government."

Since much of the land in New York State has historically been in agriculture, the likelihood of a site qualifying for the WRP is good. The NRCS may review historic aerial photos and other information such as the location of old fence lines or stone walls denoting pasture areas to determine site qualification. If a site is determined eligible, then the NRCS will assist the landowner in developing a site plan, incorporating input from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, State Department of Environmental Conservation and county Soil and Water Conservation District. The landowner's plan will be competitively ranked against other site plans to assure that the most environmentally and economically valuable sites are chosen.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) may also assist a landowner in costs associated with a wildlife marsh through its

Partners for Fish and Wildlife program. This program is funded by both the federal government and various environmental groups. The FWS will use these funds, similar to the NRCS, for the most "bang for the buck" environmental projects on both public and privately owned lands. A landowner would submit the marsh site plan to the FWS for their evaluation and consideration of funding.

As many environmentalists are aware, it is an exciting time for wildlife marsh habitat restoration. For most of this century, man's efforts have been spent in increasing agricultural production or other development by draining marsh lands. Now, the pendulum has swung and a concentrated effort is being made to reverse this long-term trend. The programs and funding are now available to encourage marsh development and restoration across the country. Each landowner should take the time to assess whether the addition or en-

hancement of a marsh will be part of the management plan for his/her property.

References:

(1) Currier, Greg, 1998. Personal communication on NRCS's Wetlands Reserve Program.

(2) Schwartz, Carl, 1997. Personal communication on US Fish & Wildlife Services Partners For Fish and Wildlife Program.

Larry Lepak is a NYS DEC Environmental Engineer charged with Environmental Quality for Region 7 and President of the Southern Tier Chapter. A second article, "Design and Construction Basics for Man-Made Marshes", will appear in a following issue.

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MASTER FOREST OWNER UPDATE

By Gary R. Goff

The NY Master Forest Owner/COVERTS Volunteer Program is entering its 9th year! Here is a brief accounting of last year's accomplishments and what's in store for the coming year.

By actual count, over 900 private forest



The workshops involve a variety of activities including indoor lectures on forest and wildlife management...

owners have had an on site visit from a certified Master Forest Owner (MFO) volunteer. With an average of 62 acres per visited owner, that means over 55,000 forested acres have benefited from the program! The true total may easily be double that though, as only about a third of the volunteers return report forms annually. These numbers reflect an incredible effort on the part of a dedicated corps of some 200-plus volunteers who have been certified through the program over the years. As of this year, there are 133 active volunteers from 41 NYS counties.

The mission of the MFO/COVERTS Program is to provide the private, non-industrial forest owners of NYS with the information and encouragement necessary to manage their forest holdings wisely. The primary method by which the program works is for the volunteers to arrange a half-day visit with a neighbor, friend, relative or referral at their woodlot. The on site tour usually includes lots of discussion about what is there, what isn't, and what needs to be done to achieve the forest owner's objectives. Often for new forest owners, the discussion never gets past the "establishing your objectives" stage. The volunteers meet with their neighbors to give advice on sources of assistance and information. A survey a few years ago showed that the value of the information given by the volunteer MFO was rated a 4.2 on a 5-point

scale by the visited forest owner.

In addition to the forest visits, the volunteers also donate their time and expertise to hundred's of forest stewardship education events in their communities. Many MFOs assist with forest owner workshops hosted by county-based Cooperative Extension Educators. This year several MFOs were instrumental in the Family Forest Fair held in Washington County in October. Many volunteers work with schools, youth groups or local nature centers. Several volunteers routinely write articles for magazines such as the NY Forest Owner!

New candidate training workshop

The 1998 new candidate training was held at Cornell University's Arnot Teaching and Research Forest in September. The 20 volunteers participated in the workshop over 4 days. The format consisted of a combination of indoor classroom presentations, and outdoor field trips and exercises. Twenty guest speakers from Cornell University, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Coastal Lumber Co., NYS DEC, The Ruffed Grouse Society, and Cornell Cooperative Extension delivered presentations on topics including: communication skills, forest ecology, forest economics, tree identification, finding boundaries, wildlife management, working with loggers, and how to use a county soils map. Charlie Smith got the Bared Owls hooting up a storm during the annual "owl walk". When asked to rate how well your expectations were met at the workshop the new MFOs rated "share information with others" a 4.5, "attain forest management



A field trip to Coastal Lumber Co. to learn the importance of sawlog quality and...

skills" a 4.1 and "to have fun" a 4.5 on a 5-pt. scale! Several volunteers indicated that the workshop was "great", but even more importantly, the two most frequent suggestions were to devote more time to nearly every topic and to do more hands-on, outside exercises.

So....the 1999 training workshop will



Outdoor field trips to learn crop tree management...

be lengthened by one day. The program will run from Weds. evening the 15th of September through Sunday noon the 19th.

Regional refresher workshops

Last year we held 3 regional refresher workshops—"Western" at Alfred State College, "Eastern" at the Shankitunk 4-H camp in Delhi, and the "Northern" at the St. Lawrence County Coop. Extension office in Canton. Each was well attended with between 14 and 25 MFOs and other guests. At Alfred the topics included local programming by Cornell Cooperative Extension, and management and marketing issues in the region as presented by DEC. The afternoon field trip was to the College's woodlots. At Delhi the primary topics were logging BMPs, the forestry program of the Watershed Agriculture Council (which was a co-sponsor), and long-term forestry for the private forest owner as presented by the Catskill Forest Association. In the afternoon, we toured the Lennox Demonstration Forest which is at the Camp. The Canton workshop was centered around responses to the January ice storm. The afternoon field trip was to a local woodlot that had been severely impacted. As usual, the success of the workshops hinged largely on the many speakers who donated their

time and talents to the workshops.

All three regional workshops will again be held this year. The dates, locations and agendas will be available as of May.

Joint NY/PA/CT COVERTS Survey

In the summer of 1997 the Univ. of Connecticut's Communication Sciences Dept., funded through the USDA Natural Resources Environmental Management Program, conducted a mail survey of the COVERTS volunteers in those states and forest owners who had been contacted as part of the COVERTS program. The goal of the survey was to learn the strengths, accomplishments, and areas that may need improvement in each state's program.

Ninety-four percent of NY's volunteers responded to the survey! A few interesting results include: (1) the MFOs reported having contacted over 1,400 people via a woodlot visit, via woodwalks, or via a live presentation in just one year, (2) 56% of the MFO's reported working with their local DEC Forester, 51% worked with their county Coop. Ext. Educator and 50% worked with NYFOA via at least one outreach activity, (3) 62% of the MFOs preferred weekend workshops as the manner by which to receive additional training (hence the refresher format), and (4) 67% of the MFOs wished to have more training on the topic of wildlife habitat.

Some interesting results from the forest owner survey (37% response rate) include: (1) 64% of the respondents know a MFO volunteer by name, (2) due at least in part to the visit by the MFO volunteer 38% of the forest owners did or plan to prepare a written management plan, 58% did or plan to do timber stand improvement, 48% did

COVERTS - (pronounce like cover) meaning good ruffed grouse habitat, refers to a similar program funded by the Ruffed Grouse Society, and is symbolic of the importance of habitat to all wildlife.

Funding for the NY MFO/COVERTS Program comes from the NYS Forest Stewardship Program administered by NYS DEC, The Ruffed Grouse Society, and the Renewable Resources Extension Program with cooperation from NYS DEC Div. of Lands and Forests and the NY Forest Owners Assoc.

The term "Master" Forest Owner implies teacher or instructor as in "school master". The training received by the volunteers complements their experiences as forest owners.



Even some free time to chat with other volunteers!

or plan to do wildlife habitat improvements, and 38% did or plan to join a forestry organization, (3) nearly 25% of the respondents earned or saved money within the past year due to the visit by the volunteer—the average was over \$7,000, (4) 30% of the respondents expect to earn money within the next 5 years as a result of the visit—the average was over \$13,000.

As these statistics indicate, the MFO/COVERTS Program brings significant, positive results! The volunteers' efforts have an impact that is expressed as improved forest owner satisfaction and better stewardship of the forest resource.

How to arrange for a visit

A free, no-obligation, on-site visit is yours for the asking! MFO volunteers are within easy driving distance of all citizens of NYS. Call or write a volunteer near you. Listings of volunteers are available at all NYS DEC regional offices, Cornell Cooperative Extension County Assoc. offices, or through a phone call to the NYFOA information line at 1-800-836-3566.

How to become a MFO volunteer

For more information on the program or to request an application form, contact MFO/COVERTS Program Director, Gary Goff, at Fernow Hall, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY 14853, ph. 607/255-2824, or e-mail at grg3@cornell.edu.

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ADDITIONAL HARVEST CONSIDERATIONS

By Mike Greason

Many landowners, foresters, loggers and others involved with timber harvesting have been taking a long hard look at their image and actions because of negative public opinion about timber harvesting that has been prevalent over the past several years. Undoubtedly there have been enough examples of poor harvesting jobs to give some credence to criticisms about forest exploitation. Most NYFOA members manage their forest resources well; yet we are less than 2,000 of the 506,000 forest owners in New York. Too many forest owners allow their timber to be cut without making the harvesting part of a forest management plan. It is the wise forest owner who treats their forest ownership investment seriously.

There is a segment of society that is vocally opposed to any harvesting. They are not vocally opposing the forest owners' responsibility to pay property taxes, but they oppose those owners' right to sell timber to help justify retention of their forest ownership investment. Somehow it is all right for a farmer to harvest corn and hay and to allow livestock to graze in pastures, but it is not all right for a woodland owner to sell timber to gain economic return from that land holding investment. In a state with a population of over seventeen million people, an urban society can seriously influence how a half million forest owners manage their land. With only small percentage of those forest owners understanding forest management, the potential problems facing forestry increases. Local timber harvesting ordinances and discussion about "right to practice forestry" legislation and possible revisions to the forest tax law (RPTL, Section 480-a) are topics the New York citizen at large knows and may care little about. Efforts, like the Family Forest Fair and recognizing the annual state Outstanding Tree Farmer, give us opportunities to inform the general public and those other 504,000 forest owners what forestry opportunities exist.

Timber harvesting as an economic venture can in its own right be a good justifiable forest management action. Forest owners who treat their forest as a serious financial investment, looking at the long term opportunities can do very well in this era

when New York's timber resources are becoming renown worldwide. New York has some of the best wood resources in the world and stumpage prices are reflecting the fact that the world realizes their value.



Peter Levatich ©1997

Many NYFOA members have been reaping the benefit of years of careful forest management.

Yet we must do a better job articulating other benefits of forest management to both the forest owner and society as a whole. A well planned timber harvest can yield more than income from a stumpage sale. Some of these benefits can accrue simply as an aside to the harvest; others may require specific planning and a cost or reduction in revenue from a sale.

Forest health can be affected through a harvest. Removing infested trees can reduce spread of insects through an area. In the early 70's, a bark beetle was slowly spreading through red pine plantations in Albany County. These plantations were on shallow heavy soils and were stagnating. Ips engraver beetle had infested these stands and were spreading from centers to surrounding trees causing total mortality.

By clearcutting patches which extended slightly beyond the visible borders of the infestation centers, the spread was controlled.

In that same county, much of the natural forest had developed as grazed woodlots surrounded by agricultural land. The exposed woodlots with compacted soils from livestock trampling were dominated by short, coarse trees with significant butt rot. Forest succession over the past century reduced exposure of these stands which were no longer being grazed. Leaf litter and other woody material had resulted in soils being improved. Harvesting in these stands resulted in a more vigorous forest without the butt rot associated with the former grazing. These harvested stands are a healthier, more vigorous forest than what existed before harvesting.

Attention focused on the New York City watershed has led to better recognition that logging does not necessarily cause serious erosion and reduction of water quality. Allowing careful logging can encourage retention of large forested tracts that are a preferred land use for watersheds producing public water supplies. The key is well planned access roads and skid trails. Keeping the soil on the land and out of the stream courses protects both forest productivity and drinking water.

Openings in the forest canopy may advance the melting of shaded snow slowly extending water release. Removal of some trees can also reduce transpiration without increasing evaporation thereby increasing water yields. Consequently forest management can positively impact water resources.

Harvesting has long been recognized as affecting wildlife habitat. To assess whether the impact is positive or negative, one has to look at targeted species and their habitat needs. Designing a harvest with wildlife goals in mind may not affect overall populations of a species, but they may affect wildlife use of a particular property. It should be noted, also, that wildlife can impact forest management. An overpopulation of deer, for instance, can impact forest regeneration. A forest owner may get ferns instead of red oak seedlings if deer browsing eliminates all the desired seedlings.

There is much written about wildlife management and species habitat needs; so this article will not try to address the topic in detail. But a couple of examples might provide food for thought. This author has never been a strong supporter of top lopping. Slash (the crown and branches of trees remaining after the tree's bole has been skidded) can offer protection for desired tree seedlings from browsing. They also can serve as cover for wildlife such as ruffed grouse who can hide from predators in the protection of the tree tops left behind on the ground. A landowner has to make choices about salvaging or selling slash for firewood or having it lopped for aesthetic considerations versus having it left uncut for the other benefits mentioned. The author recently administered a timber sale where top lopping is only required within 200 feet of a cabin to address the owners aesthetic concerns while saving an environmental benefit and reducing harvesting costs so as to gain a higher stumpage value for the sale. The management decision was a deliberate action based on several landowner objectives.

Other wildlife decisions may consider which species of trees to cut or leave, how many den trees to leave or cull out of a stand, whether to do any clearcutting or leaving portions of a stand uncut, and a number of other different possible choices. The main point is a forest owner can benefit from making choices beyond those that are strictly short term economics of the log market of the day.

Logging can also affect fisheries habitat on properties where streams or other water bodies exist. Following the New York Timber Harvesting Guidelines can usually address these concerns. Holding soil on site and providing shade for the water are probably the most important fisheries concerns related to logging. Of course these concerns include planning stream crossings. One should check with their local DEC office about stream classifications and the need for stream crossing permits when planning a timber sale involving water courses.

Other recreational values, beyond hunting, fishing and wildlife observation, can be considered in harvesting timber. Well planned truck and skid trails can provide access for fire protection, removal of firewood, forest man-



Mike Greason (l), Dave Riordan and Steve Davison during an inspection of State Forests in Region 7.

agement activities and a variety of recreational pursuits. A good trail network can be used for hiking, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, mountain bikes and all terrain vehicles. A landowner may couple trail layout with a patch clearcut to take advantage of a favorite view. Recreational values may be considered for personal use or as a part of a recreational lease program. Considering these opportunities as a part of a harvest may offer additional income opportunities for the forest owner.

In considering other economic returns from a property, a forest owner may wish to consider products beyond traditional wood products. A harvest might be planned to accommodate the growing of ginseng or other saleable ground covers.

Shifting back to the economic factors of timber harvesting, one factor the general public needs to gain understanding of is the forest owner is only one of many who receive income from a timber harvest. Obviously the logger, the forester and the primary forest industry (sawmill or pulpmill) depend on wood values from timber sales for their livelihoods. In many rural New York towns, wood based industries are the economic backbone of those communities. And with wood those economies quickly spread across town and county boundaries and increasingly across state and country boundaries as well. In two decades of commuting to Albany on the New York thruway this author noted a tremendous increase in log truck traffic from about one truckload of logs a week to four to fourteen per day of trucks seen during the half hour drive from Albany to Catskill. By its very nature, through a variety of small operations to major international companies, forestry is a complicated industry to measure. Yet, if the old assumption that a dol-

lar of stumpage yields twenty dollars in finished product continues to be valid, the forest owner is a relatively minor component in the overall economic contribution forestry is making to the state economy. If forest owners can gain recognition for all the benefits economic and environmental that they contribute to, owning forest land in New York should become an even better opportunity that should be supported by our society.

In our respective roles as landowners, foresters and harvesters, we need to do a better job of managing the forest resource to gain that white hat public recognition.

As NYFOA members, we need to become visible forestry advocates in our communities welcoming new members and advocating good forest practices.

Mike is currently a candidate for Director to NYFOA's Board (Bio on page 11.)

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ASK A FORESTER

By Steve Davison

Cherry Jelly

Q Does anyone know the most likely cause of jelly formation on the outside of black cherry trees. A number of black cherry trees in one woods have many spots with the amber jelly forming on the bark. The spots are all around the tree and most of the distance up and down the trunk on 20" to 30" diameter trees. Any assistance would be appreciated. Thanks—Steve Childs.

A With many tree and forestry problems, there is no simple answer. Such is the case with cherry gum. The formation of gum by members of the Rosaceae family is known as gummosis. Many factors can cause a black cherry tree to produce the gum you are seeing on the bark of the tree. Some gum causing factors are insects, mechanical injury, and environmental stress. Trees growing in damp conditions will sometimes produce gum. Gummosis can be also caused by disease. I'll try to explain a little about each of these and then you can decide which one or combination of factors in causing the gum.

The insects responsible for the formation

of gum are the Agromyzid cambium miner (*Phytobia pruni*), the peach bark beetle (*Phloeotribus liminaris*) and the lesser peachtree borer (*Synathedon pictipes*).

The Agromyzid cambium miner makes mines in the bark of saplings, twigs and small branches. The name cambium miner is not correct since the insect mines in the cortex and the phloem. Both of these are layers of tissue outside of the cambium. The visible mines may begin on a twig and continue to the root.

The peach bark beetle attacks unhealthy fruit and ornamental trees. It is attracted to weakened and dying trees. It bores through the bark to make a gallery for its eggs. When the larvae hatch, they feed from these galleries further injuring the tree. Dead or dying trees along with material pruned from these trees attract the beetle. Therefore, disposal of these will help control the beetle.

The lesser peachtree borer attacks peach, almond, and flowering cherry trees all members of the Rosaceae family. The borer attacks growing tissue anywhere in the trunk from the ground to the main branches or at the site of an old trunk injury. In response to the insect attack, the tree produces the gum. The eggs of the insect are laid in the cracks of the bark along the trunk of the tree.

Injury to the tree, especially injury caused by equipment, is another important cause of gummosis. When a skidder rubs against a tree and peels off a section of bark, an open wound is created. These wounds allow bacteria, fungi and viruses to enter the tree. The tree will usually react to the wounds by producing gum.

Injury can directly lead to the introduction of diseases such as brown rot, Cytospora canker and bacterial canker into the tree. A normal response of cherry to these diseases is the production of gum.


Environmental stress is one of the leading causes of gummosis in cherry trees. When a cherry tree is growing in a crowded stand, it is living in a stressful environment where it is fighting for sunlight and growing space. When a thinning occurs to release crop trees (many times a nice cherry), the released trees undergo further stress from increased sunlight possibly resulting in sunscald, stress from the removal of the mutual support system supplied by neighboring trees, and stress brought on by inju-

ries from the harvest operation.

In stands where a high-grade or a diameter limit cut occurs, the best trees are removed and the inferior trees are left as the crop trees. The better trees naturally have the biggest and best crowns and are termed dominant or co-dominant trees. The intermediate and suppressed trees are inferior trees which have much smaller crowns. They generally do not respond to a thinning by building new crown and increasing dramatically in diameter. Instead these trees are very stressed by the sudden increased sunlight and become prime candidates for gummosis.

There are some obvious controls over the gum problem. A careful logging job will minimize injury to both the trunk and crown of trees thus minimizing insect and disease introduction into the cherry component. Careful thinnings will identify crop trees which by definition are the healthiest and best trees of the stand. These crop trees are better able to withstand stress and attacks of insects and diseases. In the same manner, a thinning that does not high-grade or use a diameter limit to choose trees to harvest will leave trees which are better able to withstand attacks of insects and disease.

It is hard to exert any control over cherry trees growing in damp conditions and minimize gummosis. Black cherry does best where the summer growing conditions are cool and moist and the soils are well-drained or somewhat poorly drained. There is a loss of productivity where soil conditions are wetter. Where the sites are wetter, trees more suitable to those sites should be favored over cherry.

Unfortunately for many of us, in most of New York, gum is a problem. We can do everything right to prevent it and still get it wrong. 



Black cherry stems with gum exuding from bark (white spots) and collecting at the base.

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GENERAL DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

GEORGE W. BROWN

Residence: 608 County Rt. #62, Cambridge, NY 12816; Born 8/2/27 Hackensack, NJ. **Education:** BA, MA & 60 hours, Columbia University. Retired Public School Superintendent, Cambridge Central School. Own and operate "Stone Hill Tree Farm" 100 acre Christmas tree and hardwoods farm. Impartial Hearing Officer, Community Mediator; Master Forest Owner Volunteer: Past President of New Jersey Outdoor Education Association. Former Member of Board of Directors, New York Christmas Tree Growers Association. 1999 Forest Steward Award SAC Chapter

HARRY DIETER

Harry is retired from Xerox Corporation. He and his wife, Pat, manage a 175 acre forest on their 250 acre farm for wildlife, timber and recreation. Harry is a Master Forest Owner Volunteer, past Director of Outdoor Activities for WFL Chapter, and current NYFOA Board Member. He and his family reside at 217 Rush Mendon Townline Road, Honeoye Falls, New York, 14472. Phone 716533-2085.

MICHAEL C. GREASON

Retired from the NYS DEC in August of 1998 after being involved in public service forestry in New York for 29 years. Prior to that he had worked for the Massachusetts

DNR for two years and had logged for six years. Presently he operates a consultant forestry service and woodworking business from his home in Catskill. He is a Society of American Foresters "Certified Forester".

During his career, Greason has been awarded the Heiberg Memorial Award in 1993 and was the 1993 NY Society of American Foresters Forester of the Year. In addition he was elected Fellow in the Society of American Foresters.

Mike and his wife Peggy own a sixteen acre Tree Farm in Catskill. Mike belongs to the Catskill Forest Association and the National Woodland Owners Association.

JOHN G. HAMILTON

Jack is a retired physician who has managed his 150 acre Tree Farm in Livingston County for the past 25 years. During this time he and his family have done TSI on 230 acres, clear cut 7 acres, built roads and ponds, managed for wildlife, and sold saw timber, utility poles and firewood. In 1991 he was New York State, Regional, and National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year and subsequently served on the Tree Farm National Operating Committee and as Chair of the NYS Tree Farm System.

While practicing OB-GYN in Rochester he was President of the County Medical Society, a member of the State Medical Conduct Board, and Medical Director of the area State Health Department and the Professional Standards Review Organization.

At present he is the WFL representative to the NYFOA Board, a member of Empire State Forest Products Association, and an Honorary Member of the Society of American Foresters.

ROBERT M. SAND

Society Of American Foresters: Member 42 yrs., 1981 NYSAF Chair-Elect, 1982-'83 Chair, Active on many committees; 1995 elected Member at Large of the NYSAF Exec. Committee: served from 1996-1998; in 1994 elected as a SAF Fellow.

NYFOA: Member since 1963. Past Service: Director, many terms, President 2 years. **Committees:** Annual & Fall Meetings, Woodswalk, Nominations, Long Range Planning. Presently: NYFOA Recording Sec'y . & Executive, Editorial, Awards & Exec. Dir. Search Committees. **Awards:** 1988 Heiberg Memorial, 1993; 30th. Anniversary Special Recognition. Bob has owned N.Y. forestland since 1954. He is Vice Pres. of SUNY-CESF Alumni Assoc. The Sands reside at: 300 Church St. Odessa, NY 14869-9703 phone: 607-594-2130.

ROLF WENTORF

Rolf has been involved with NYEOA 3 years, maintains the NYFOA Web Page and have participated in the last two Family Forest Fairs.

Rolf has been happily married for 11 years to his wife Debra, who is also active in SAC. They maintain two parcels as certified "Tree Farms" in Washington and Rensselaer counties, and have performed SIP and minor harvesting on each (one due to tornado damage).

He has earned a B.S. and Master's degree in engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and also worked at Fairchild Republic in Long Island as an aerospace structural designer and now works at Rensselaer as a staff research engineer with occasionally duties as an instructor.

----- ✂ ----- ✂ ----- ✂ -----
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ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

Joined by members of the New York Tree Farm System

Saturday, April 24, 1999

Marshall Hall, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY

8:30 **Registration and Coffee**

Check out silent auction items and place your bids.

9:30 **Welcome. Annual Business Meeting - Jill Cornell**, President, NYFOA

10:15 **Marsh Construction for Wildlife:** Learn about siting, soils, water control, spillways, aquatic vegetation, wood duck boxes, costs and cost sharing.

Larry LePak, Licensed Environmental Engineer, Greene, NY

11:00 **Options for Managing Forest Wildlife Damage:** Too many deer? Porcupines? Beaver?

An expert speaks on identification and management of damage, DEC policies and regulations, and current research at Cornell University.

Paul G. Jensen, Research Specialist, Cornell Department of Natural Resources

12:15 **Lunch** (provided)

Place silent auction bids

1:15 **Awards - Robert Sand**, NYFOA; and **Donna Rogler**, Tree Farm

1:45 **Logger and Landowner Relations:** Sound advice on landowners, foresters and loggers working as a team, and ways the Sustainable Forestry Initiative affects landowners.

John Levi, President, Levi Lumber Company, Inlet, NY

2:15 **Hardwood markets and marketing:** Change is always with us. Be an informed landowner. One successful manufacturer's perspective.

Terry Brennan, Director Saw Mill Operations, Baillie Lumber Company; Hamburg, NY.

3:00 Silent auction results

3:15 Adjourn

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DETACH REGISTRATION FORM:

MAIL BEFORE

APRIL 1, 1999

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please find my check for ___ registration(s) at \$ 16 each: \$ _____ (includes lunch and materials)

Send registration by APRIL 1, 1999 to: Debbie Gill, PO Box 180, Fairport, NY 14450.

For map, more information or directions to the meeting location, call 1-800-836-3566

LETTERS

LANDOWNER WORKSHOPS

Landowner stewardship workshops are joint efforts among CCE, NYFOA, DEC, and CFA. All registrations are due 10 calendar days before the workshop.

Registration information is available through Deanna Owens at (607) 255-2814. Registration begins at 8 AM, general sessions at 9 AM, followed by a series of concurrent sessions that conclude by 3:30 PM. Topics at all workshops include forest management, wildlife ecology and management, and aquatic ecology and management. Prices vary by location depending on facility costs. Fees cover refreshments, lunch, and a copy of the proceedings.

March 6th—Catskill and Lower Hudson Forest Owner Workshop. Hackley School, Tarrytown. Costs - \$35 single; spouse, \$16

March 13th—Southern Tier Forest Owner Workshop. Location TBA, Binghamton. Est. costs - \$25 single; spouse for \$15.

March 20th—Capital District Forest Owner Workshop. Schalmont High School, Rotterdam. Costs - \$25 single; spouse, \$15.

March 27th—Niagara Frontier Forest Owner Workshop. Cornell Cooperative Extension Education Center, Lockport. Estimated costs - \$20 single; spouse, \$10.

DEER TO VENISON

Dr. Jane's column in Forest Owner is always the first thing I read. Having written a veterinary column for The American Agriculturist for thirty years, I appreciate her style and personal touch which gives her readers a feeling that she is their friend, they know her.

"From Deer to Venison" (Jan/Feb '99) particularly caught my interest, since one of my columns years ago in The Agriculturist on handling venison caught the attention of Gardenway Publishing (now Storey Books) causing them to request writing of the book *Basic Butchering of Livestock and Game*. To the best of my knowledge there is no other book as complete available. I am sending Dr. Jane a copy so she and others can use it next fall and be able to save more of the deer including the hide.

Her use of the foreshank sounds delicious. In my book she will find directions for boning and rolling a shoulder (pg 109) and smoking venison Scandinavian style (pg 147.)

Your readers might also enjoy my latest book, *Wild Turkeys* published by Storey. They also publish *Horse Sense*, which followed the butcher book.

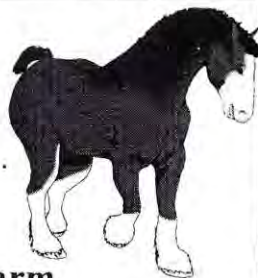
-John J Mettler Jr., Copake Falls

Creatures & Other Neat Things

By Jim Coufal ©1999

Imagine the anticipation of a leisurely stroll to the old rock bridge hoping to spy a gnarly troll, or a walk in the woods hoping for the sight of a flashing unicorn caught in the rays of a breaking dawn. Imagine wee people, monsters under the bed, Godzilla, Mighty Joe Young, and the walking dead. Imagine troublesome tribles, Klingons, 20,000 leagues under the sea, spaceships crashing in New Mexico, and a planet where apes are free. Imagine your imagining without real though unpaid models. Imagine seeing passenger pigeons darkening the sky, imagine a world without marbled murelets, spotted owls, a prairie landscape, ancient forests, or wolf howls. Imagine speaking to one current point of millions of years of evolution and saying, "Our needs, our wants, outweigh your right to existence." Imagine!

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Boring But!

I know that reading the proposed by-law changes in the Forest Owner is at least as interesting as watching paint dry, but this is far more important than you might imagine. As a past member of the board (first as a Chapter Chair, then as an elected Director) I believe that the proposed changes need YOUR close attention.

Sure, it's hard to plow through the bracketed, underlined and who knows what all, and your eyes cross and you go to sleep and think, "What's the difference?" As a past member of the Board I'd like a few seconds (*stay awake!*) to give my thoughts on the subject. Yeah, I'm old and crabby but if it ain't broke why fix it? The by-laws *maybe* need a wee bit of streamlining. But they have worked admirably for over 30 years.

Concentrating power to the Executive Committee kinda gives all the good volunteers even less reason to make the trek to Syracuse "four times a year". So many thoughtful, intelligent, generous people have invested so much time and care into NYFOA over the years I wonder why we suddenly need to make their efforts for naught? Why have a board? Why ask Chapter Chairs to go all the way to Syracuse if they are only to "rubber stamp" Executive Committee's decisions?

Two year limits on president's are a fine idea. We coulda, used just such a limit on our current United States President!

I have sat through many Board Meetings and sometimes thought, "Gee, we didn't get anything done!" But we did. Always.

Maybe those "cumbersome" by-laws worked. I always felt privileged to be associated with those people who were directors when I was. They took the responsibilities seriously, they spent NYFO's money *very* carefully and they almost all believed very strongly that NYFOA was more important than their particular egos.

As for the budget snafus; couldn't the fiscal year be changed to take into consideration the date of the Spring Meeting? Or couldn't it be prepared and voted on at the Fall Meeting to be effective in January?

We may need little changes and some streamlining; but I will get publically on my soapbox and suggest that all the proposed changes are NOT in NYFOA's best interests.

O.K., you can go back to sleep now.

—Betty Densmore, Editor AFC Newsletter [from the AFC Newsletter]

EQUAL TIME

There is one important issue that I think each member should carefully consider. In the Forest Owner [Jan/Feb '99] you will have an opportunity to see the proposed changes to NYFOA's by-laws. I hope many of you will wonder, "Why do the by-laws need to be changed?" The answer is not that simple and I believe our members need to understand why the changes were introduced and what are some of the concerns. I have asked Ron Pedersen (CDC and by-laws committee) to give me some insight into the benefits of the by-law changes. According to Ron, the bylaws needed to be changed because, in practice, they were just not being followed. For example, previously the budget had to be approved by the membership at the spring meeting. That meant that there was no budget in place for the first quarter; or, as happened last year, the board approved the budget previously and had the membership "rubber stamp" it in May. Previously, the length of director terms was unclear, limiting the president to two years without reelection. On the positive side revised bylaws retain member control of the board through the election of directors. The present requirement of 2/3 NYFOA members present at annual meeting, are still needed to change the by-laws.

The board and president will have more power under the new by-laws. The small attendance at state wide meetings, and the very few who vote for directors indicate that most NYFOA members are not interested in the running of the organization at the state level. Since the vast majority of members are happy to leave state concerns to others, why saddle the board with ground rules which, as a practical matter, they must ignore? Also, the proposed by-laws will allow the Executive Committee to operate honestly without disregarding the by-laws, or restricting its actions by waiting for approval by the board of directors (which only meet four times each year).

Lastly, Ron commented that the members are responsible for electing the board and president and must trust that they would not disparage the organization. Besides, as we learn from our government politicians, nothing can prevent some leaders from abusing their power.

—David Swaciak, Chair, AFC & 1998 Representative to the NYFOA Board supporting the revision. [from the AFC Newsletter]

On the Loss of Affiliates

You know I've always had a dream—One simple coordinated organization representing landowners in New York State.

Just think of the paid professional staff that the Catskill Forest Association has and all the wonderful volunteers that NYFOA has...

One state—one organization—one voice.

Just a dream?

—Jack McShane, Past Pres., CFA, Andes

By-law n. 1. A law or rule governing the internal affairs of an organization. 2. A secondary law. [Middle English *bilawe*, body of local regulations; akin to Danish *by-lag*, township ordinance: Old Norse *byr*, settlement; see *bheue-* in Appendix + Old Norse **lagu*, law; see *legh-* in Appendix.]

WORD HISTORY.—A casual glance at the word bylaw might make one think that the element *by-* means "secondary, subsidiary," especially since *bylaw* can mean "a secondary law." It is possible that *by-*, as in *byway*, has influenced *bylaw* in the sense "secondary law"; however, *bylaw* existed long before the sense in question. The word is first recorded in 1283 with the meaning "a body of customs or regulations, as of a village, manor, religious organization, or sect." *By-* in this word comes from Old Norse, as may the word *bylaw*, and is related to if not identical with the element *-by* in the names of many places, such as Whitby, where Scandinavians settled when they invaded England during the early Middle Ages. We get the sense of this *-by* if we compare the related word entered as *bxx*, *bour*, *byr*, in the standard dictionary of Old Icelandic, meaning "a town or village" in Norway, Sweden, and Denmark and "a farm or landed estate" in Iceland. We thus see why *bylaw* would mean "a body of customs of a village or manor" and why we use the word to mean "a law or rule governing the internal affairs of an organization."

From: *American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language Edition 1992*

WE LOSE A FRIEND

John Warren Stock, Jr., formerly of E. Aurora and Tupper Lake died Jan 7, 1999. John was a graduate of the College of Forestry at Syracuse and managed a CCC Camp in Idaho. He served NYFOA as an early President and received the NYFOA's Heiberg Award in 1972

To: The MEMBERS OF NYFOA:

NYFOA soon may change, AND from my vantage point, NOT for the BETTER! New NYFOA Bylaws are to be voted on by members at the April 24th. NYFOA's Annual Syracuse Meeting. Proposed changes **HAVE 803 words deleted, [] and 1558 words ADDED, underlined !** Thus what served us for 36 years, with only minor changes, NOW is reinvented. *The Officers and the Board of Directors will make the decisions, and the MEMBERSHIP loses its control of NYFOA.* Such a drastic overhaul of NYFOA's Bylaws is UNNECESSARY. I beseech you to cast a **Bylaw NO** vote, then a **YES** vote to **PASS** a motion to **TABLE** the revised Bylaws.

I urge you to carefully read your **Jan-Feb. 1999 FOREST OWNER**, pages 6,7 & 8.

II-2 Changes in the dues structure is vested solely in the BOARD. *The membership should have a VOTE on any NYFOA dues changes.*

II-3 Honorary members may be appointed by the BOARD, *but would NO LONGER be subject to approval by the NYFOA membership.*

III-3 A written Notice of both the Annual Meeting and Special Meetings must be made at least 30 days prior to the meeting. For SPECIAL MEETINGS, **under extraordinary circumstances**, THE 30 DAY WRITTEN NOTICE may be waived. Objection: *All NOTICES should be made only in the FOREST OWNER. Any 1st Class Mail NOTICE could cost \$600.00 or more.* NYFOA should continue to meet on the Forestry Campus in Syracuse, a very convenient midpoint location. **Let's not FORGET NYFOA's roots.**

Deleted from the new Bylaws is specific Board authority to appoint an Executive Director or designate **Regional Affiliates.**

This is a VERY short sighted deletion as both are important to the continued MEMBERSHIP GROWTH of NYFOA.

IV-4 Since 1963, NYFOA has been VOLUNTEER and MEMBERSHIP oriented. Do we now need to reimburse, other than the Officers, reasonable & necessary expenses? **This is a LOOP-HOLE that could become a BLACK HOLE to the financial position of NYFOA.**

V-1 DELETION on line 5 & 6 of **both** the Board Recording Secretary and Treasurer, who may or may not be Directors. *WHY, when over the past, the Board has elected to these positions qualified volunteer candidates other than Directors?*

At 4, We should Add: A contracted paid independent ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY and rewrite the paragraph as to duties. Last 2 lines: **PROPOSED DELETION: NO PRESIDENT MAY SERVE MORE THAN TWO CONSECUTIVE ONE YEAR TERMS.** *Let us conform to PAST POLICY. Historically, we should retain this in our Bylaws.*

V-7 **PROPOSED DELETION** of both the first & second paragraphs. **The first should be reworded** as duties of the Admin. Sec'y. *The second paragraph should be left intact or we LOSE this specific authority vested in the Board of Directors.*

VI-2 **This entire item is deleted and inadequately revised.** **For over 35 years, COMMITTEES were appointed by the President. This should continue as a duty of ALL future PRESIDENTS.**

1. The Editorial Committee has been left out of the Committee listings.
2. **Chapter Treasuries**, while belonging to NYFOA, are NOT part of the General Fund. Such should be in the Bylaws.
3. The NYFOA membership last amended the Bylaws on April 26, 1997 by deleting 4 words and **adding 16.**
4. The Bylaw changes now **DELETE 803 words and ADD 1558!** And with it, **NYFOA members lose control. The OFFICERS & BOARD run the whole show. APPALLING!**
5. **CAST a NO vote and MOVE that the proposed Bylaws be TABLED and REQUEST a new Committee composed of four Past Presidents** be charged to update *only where a change is needed.* Respectively submitted, **BOB SAND**, Odessa, NY

COOPERATING CONSULTANT AND COOPERATING INDUSTRIAL FORESTER PROGRAM

On October 31, 1998, the Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Lands and Forests adopted a revision to its policies that initiates a cooperative program with consultant and industrial foresters. The program launches a system enabling Department forestry staff to make referrals of foresters in the private sector, to forest landowners requesting forestry services which the Department of Environmental Conservation is limited to respond to. The Department has worked with the NY Institute of Consulting Foresters, the NY Association of Consulting Foresters and the Empire State Forest Products Association in the development of this program effort. This aspect of Department service is an enhancement of the successful Cooperating Consultant Forester program that has been used for nearly two decades to increase ac-

cess to professional forestry advice by non industrial private forest landowners.

Private sector foresters wishing to participate in this cooperative program must demonstrate their educational background and experience. Individuals having a Bachelor of Science degree in forest management and three years of experience in forestry work may apply for cooperating status through their local Regional Forester. The Department will maintain a directory containing lists of consultant and industrial foresters that is provided to landowners who require forestry services.

Individual foresters cooperating with the Department agree to rely upon science based forestry information when making recommendations to referred landowners, adhere to the NYS Best Management Practices, adhere to the Society of American Foresters

Code of Ethics, maintain a level of continuing forestry education and periodically report accomplishments to the Department. The Department will evaluate compliance with and effectiveness of the program, conduct joint meetings, facilitate the exchange of information and print and distribute the directory of Cooperating Foresters.

This referral program is aimed at alerting forest landowners to the different sources of professional forestry assistance available to them. The Department plans to have a directory of cooperating foresters available for distribution early in 1999. Those desiring additional program information or interested in participating in the program should contact their local Regional Forester of the Department of Environmental Conservation.



ONE LUCKY STUMBLE

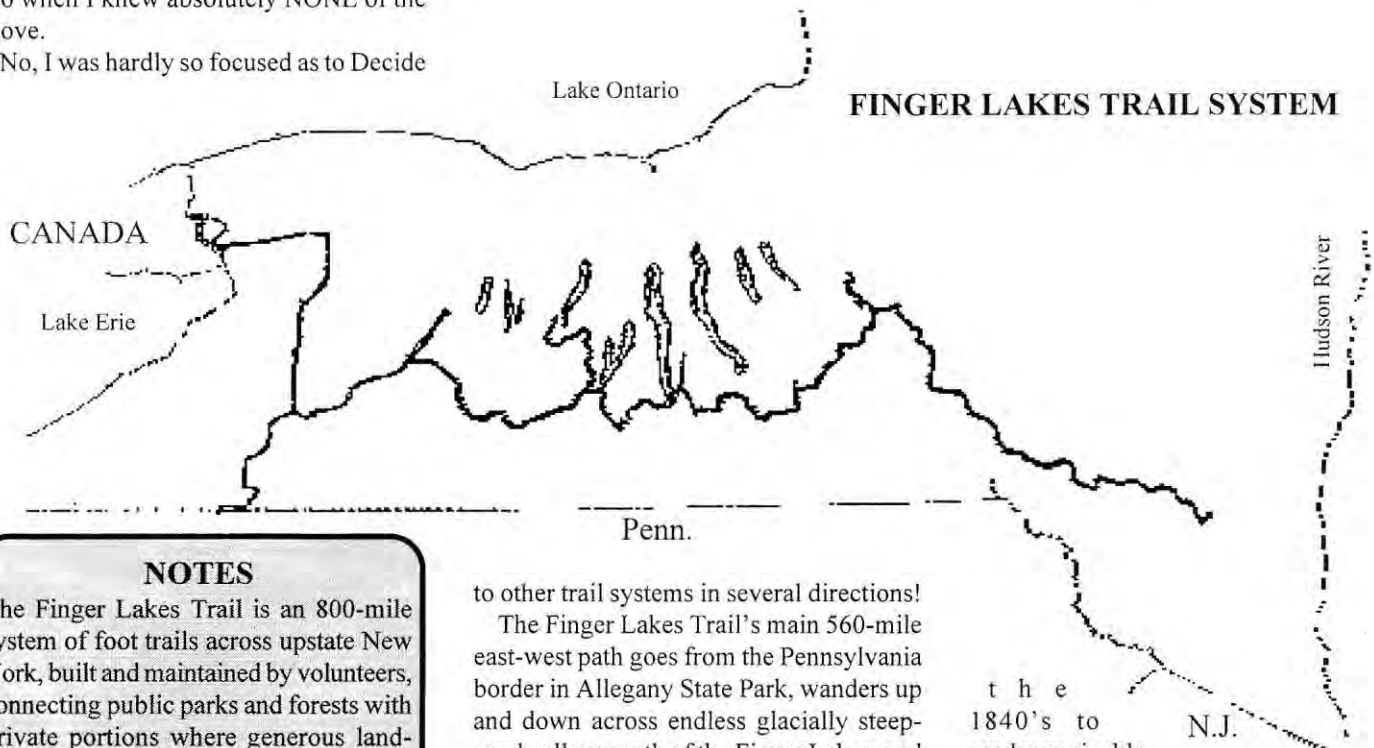
By Irene Szabo

In 1999 I can comfortably say that I'm able to identify most of New York's native trees, winter or summer, know the names of many of early May's spectacular wildflowers, am on a first-name basis with a few common woodland shrubs, have a good idea which rivers drain into what others (and in New York that's a spectacular puzzle that takes practice!), sometimes do indeed have a clue as to foresters' intents and purposes when I come upon a lumbering operation, and can spot historic evidence in seemingly trackless woods that would have eluded me entirely ten years ago when I knew absolutely NONE of the above.

No, I was hardly so focused as to Decide

to Learn Stuff. Hardly! Rather, I stumbled across the Finger Lakes Trail entirely by accident in early 1985 near the ski resort village of Swain in Allegany County and that was the first step on a long foot journey into the interior of New York State. I'd heard of nationally famous hiking trails like the 2000-mile Appalachian Trail from Maine to Georgia, in fact, had even taken campers on a three-day hike there when I was a camp counselor in the mid-sixties, but had no clue that upstate New York boasted what is now over 800 miles of continuous hiking path, connected, moreover,

Ellicottville (yet another ski resort: give you an idea of the hill-walking involved?) in Cattaraugus County on the property of none other than Betty Densmore, active NYFOA Allegheny Foothills Chapter member. The Letchworth Branch follows for 25 miles that park's east side, the wonderful wooded side devoid of campgrounds or hamburger stands, and forms a giant loop with the Genesee Valley Greenway, another kind of (level!) trail which is being built gradually along abandoned towpath and subsequent railbed beside the long defunct Genesee Valley Canal which was intended back in



NOTES

The Finger Lakes Trail is an 800-mile system of foot trails across upstate New York, built and maintained by volunteers, connecting public parks and forests with private portions where generous landowners have granted permission for public hiking. The administrative umbrella organization, the Finger Lakes Trail Conference, is supported by member dues and sales of maps and guidebooks. For a map buyer's guide, send a SASE to FLT, PO Box 18048, Rochester NY 14618, or visit the vividly informative website at www.fingerlakes.net/trailssystem. Questions? 716-288-7191, or fltc@axsnet.com

FREE SAMPLES! For a of the hiking trail nearest you, check for one of the easily found sections of FLT shown on park maps at Allegany, Letchworth, Watkins Glen, Robert Treman, or Bowman Lake State Parks

to other trail systems in several directions!

The Finger Lakes Trail's main 560-mile east-west path goes from the Pennsylvania border in Allegany State Park, wanders up and down across endless glacially steepened valleys south of the Finger Lakes, and ends in the west-central Catskills at a junction with the north-south Long Path, which connects with the Appalachian Trail where it crosses extensive park lands northwest of New York City, west of the Hudson. In Pennsylvania, the trail continues southward through the Allegheny National Forest as the North Country National Scenic Trail, which is intended eventually to connect the Adirondacks with North Dakota by means of a 4000-mile collection of trails through NY, PA, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota.

In addition to the main trail, there are north-south branch trails: the longest Conservation Trail heads north to Niagara Falls from its junction with the main path east of

the 1840's to render navigable the river which tumbles six hundred feet over waterfalls through the park's gorge on its way to Rochester.

The 52-mile Bristol Hills Branch connects the spectacular glacially-twisted bumps and grooves of Naples in Ontario County with the hills above southern Keuka Lake near Hammondsport, while the Queen Catherine Marsh Trail offers a 12-mile loop southward from the main trail after its descent through spectacular Watkins Glen State Park on a novel FLAT walk through varied swamps on dry footbeds. The Onondaga Branch reaches north from the main trail southeast of Syracuse, features spectacular views over Labrador Hollow's

steep valley, and is still a-building northward to connect eventually with Old Erie Canal State Park's 36-mile towpath trail.

So how on earth did all this extensive network of hiking trails bring me to a vastly different perspective on New York's outdoors? Of course, just walking across the state through its hinterlands (which I did, spread over nine years) lends a far more accurate picture of a countryside than does a screaming rip-through at 70 MPH on the Thruway, although by now I "see" more even while driving. The more I walked, the more I looked at county-scaled maps, noticed where rivers came from and went, even started to notice when the trail topped out and changed watersheds. Only in the last couple of years have highway planners bothered to erect signs at those significant geographic changes, and lots of people don't even know what they mean, so disconnected are they from the shape of their own land. Somebody even asked me if a sign marking the entry to a watershed meant it could flood there, whereas, of course, the marked spot is at the highest end of a given waterflow. But I digress.

Vastly greater has been my experience of our shared land, however, while taking care of the FLT, for this path is far more than a deer tunnel through the underbrush. Volunteers...whether members of hiking clubs or individuals...have built and still maintain the entire system, and a well-tended section requires several working visits a year. Naturally, the most critical visit is to contain riotous growth during late May and June, during the worst heat and bug infestations, never a pleasant prospect. Nonetheless, the whole 800-odd mile trail is kept open and easy to follow by hundreds of individuals wielding bow saws, loppers, hand snippers, power and manual weed whackers, and the inevitable paint brush for freshening the vital route marks, those colored paint blazes on intermittent trees. Some clever caretaker called it "Olympic gardening." Indeed!

Thus I've learned trees first by their bark...which ones are easy to paint a blaze upon, which ones need scraping first (like ash, white oak), which ones grow too fast and therefore pop their paint off in a season (young aspen!), which ones a body cannot paint below a snapped branch in late winter (sap-runny maple!)...and bushes by their bite: hawthornes, buckthorn, raspberries, vile roses have earned my steady loathing, while unnecessarily rapacious intruders like honeysuckle and wretched grape

vine are high on the enemies list. Of course, while my crabby prejudices continue to grow, well-fed by many a struggle and scratch, I simultaneously allow myself to wallow in unfounded admiration for the plants I've come to love, no matter foresters' logic — white pine, any oak, and did I mention white pine? A patch of trailing arbutus or a wide bed of intriguing moss will cause me to reroute my adopted piece of trail sideways just so nobody walking by will miss something dear.

In a second lucky stumble I chanced to blunder into Charlie Mowatt's domain before he retired from the DEC, so became the fortunate beneficiary of the giving outreach that was the trademark of this man's career, as many NYFOA members know so well. From Charlie I began to learn the wider picture of the DEC's management mission, some of the endless cyclical process that is a living forest, and along the way, a tremendous perspective on the demanding roles that these public agency employees must play, the large number of competing bosses they must satisfy, including you and me. As I wrote on the "thanks" page of the booklet accompanying a nature trail built along the FLT within state forest in Steuben County, "Charlie Mowatt helped me see both the forest AND the trees."

So how does a volunteer-built skinny little footpath turn into a continuous 800-mile route? Even in state forests we need permission from the DEC foresters, who must approve the original route, and sometimes make subsequent suggestions for route changes when a harvest approaches that would wipe out some of the path. In

state and county parks each hiking club needs to obtain permission also, but usually an additional marked trail that requires no paid staff maintenance is regarded as a gift from heaven and a real contribution to the recreational offerings of the park.

But the greatest gifts of all are the kind permissions which over 300 private landowners have given to the Finger Lakes Trail, for many miles of private woods and fields stitch together all the public lands the path crosses. The most common characteristic of farmers, forest owners, absentee owners who keep a patch of country for summer camping or fall hunting, is a distinct affection for their land and a matching desire to share it. What else would make a person agree to have the public traipse through their private property, even on a limited and designated path, for FREE? Such a generous spirit, abiding in so many hundreds of souls, is the happiest miracle of this and all other hiking trails that offer long distances to quiet walkers who want to get really well acquainted with their own countryside.

During NYFOA chapter woodwalks I'm often reminded by similar types of welcoming people who are proud of their places of some of the most heartwarming FLT landowners I've been lucky to meet. In following articles I'd like to introduce you to some of them and take a tour through each of their beloved parts of New York's hindermost back yard. ▲

In addition to tending trails of New York, Irene is a member of the Western Finger Lakes Chapter of NYFOA and a Director of the Finger Lakes Land Trust (NYFO 36:2, 20.) Map by courtesy of Howard Beye (FLTC).

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NEW YORK CITY LIKES FORESTRY

By Henry Kernan

When I was growing up in New York City during the interwar years, a speaker came to our school assembly to explain to us how and why a spigot turned on would let water flow out as surely as the sun would rise, water that was clear, cool, safe and unailing. His talk was all about pipes and pumps, conduits, reservoirs, and tunnels drilled miles long through the schist rock upon which Manhattan's great buildings stand.

Significantly for the times, the speaker had no word for the watersheds beyond those wonders of human engineering, no word for the even greater natural wonders of the spongy forest floor, with soils that absorb and gather the fallout of clouds into springs, pools and streams. They all were far up north beyond the Bronx to the far off Catskills, a place for summer camps and sleepy old codgers like Rip van Winkle.

Such insouciance towards the Catskill watersheds is gone long since, and rightly so. Under pressure from the Environmental Protection Agency, New York City is putting political clout and \$1.2 billion into keeping the water flowing abundant and clear. The resulting Catskill Watershed Programs takes in municipalities, farms and forests. Together, they are a bargain. The alternatives are filtration plants costing \$8 billion to build and \$3 billion a year to operate.

The principal geographic facts of the 1.2 million acre Catskill watersheds are their mountains and their forests. The 900,000 acres under forest are the source of most of the water flow and have a profound influence upon the quality and quantity. In contrast to most municipal watersheds, the ownership is largely private. The City has \$260 million to buy forest land and easements; but 550,000 acres will remain private. Presumably the City and state can care

for their own. The Watershed Forestry Program mostly is aimed at private owners.

They number in the tens of thousand and their woodlots average about 30 acres. Many of the owners live elsewhere. Their reasons for owning and paying taxes on forest land in the Catskills are many and varied. Consequently, the City-backed forestry program must be very broad, with many aspects and endeavors. Subjects of study and action are the timber industry, taxation, economic development, land-owner outreach and education, and the silvicultural techniques by which forest cover yields more and better water. They are all important, but those of most concern to forest owners are timber and taxes.

An early conclusion was that logging as now practiced in the Catskills creates no appreciable problems of sedimentation and soil degradation. City officials had already agreed that farming and logging were compatible with watershed management and should continue to be the mainstays of the local economy.

A closer look at the timber business reveals that the region has about 500 loggers, perhaps a third of them full-time. Most work alone or with partners. They have learned their trade on the job; they are under-financed because they buy standing timber and expensive equipment. In spite of a rather negative public image they do well, but could do a lot better for themselves, for woodlot owners, and for the water supply of New York City.

Compared to several other states, logger training and certification have come late to New York, but is now well underway. The watershed program organizes workshops in silviculture, productivity and first aid. Over one hundred loggers and owners have attended the three day-long sessions and received certification.

An example of less damaging forest exploitation is the layout and construction of roads, landings and skidding trails. On average, if unplanned, they take up ten per cent of the logging area. Insight and planning can reduce the disturbed and compacted soils by half. On such soils seedling trees do not germinate and grow well.

Another example is the use of portable bridges for stream crossings. The Watershed Forestry Program is making them available through rental and purchase. Both examples presage a greater sensitivity to environmental concerns on the part of timber extraction.

Another conclusion of the watershed Task Force was that the real property tax as now applied to forest land leads to the breakup of forest properties and the conversion of forest land to other use. Both are considered undesirable. Moreover RPTL Section 480-a was judged to be restrictive and inappropriate to the forestland ownership in the Catskills. After 25 years, the present forest tax law has enrolled only five per cent of the eligible acres.

The standing committee on taxation has proposed the following:


A refundable state tax income credit of 80% of the school tax paid on qualifying undeveloped forest land.

* A one day training in forest stewardship required of forest landowners to qualify for the credit.

* At least 25 acres, 10% of which may be in open land.

* A seven year commitment to maintain forest land use, with roll back penalties not to exceed seven years.

* A harvest plan detailing objectives of harvest, road and landing design, identification of water courses and stream management zones.

The proposals have as their model the Farmer's School Tax Credit. Yet they are more restrictive. The FSTC does not require training or harvest plans of farm participants. The difference may be in the perception that all forest lands have public values to an extent that farmed lands do not. 

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

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Restore the American Chestnut

Pruning and Physiology

By Jerry Bond

Ah, spring! The sun is shining, the birds are returning, the buds are swelling, and already I see Homeowner Scissorhands staring at the trees and shrubs, pruning shears chattering in hand. It is a good time to step back, and think about what is about to happen. One of the things that has struck me is how rarely anyone looks at pruning in terms of plant physiology. Yet I am persuaded that if people understood better what happens inside the plant when they prune, they would do a better job on the outside.

When a woody plant is pruned—or loses branches for any reason—two different chemical and physical processes begin: a wound response, and a bud response. The first sets up a chain of actions that work to seal off a wound, and is particularly important for trees because they are committed to single stems. The second shifts the pattern of bud suppression and release, and is particularly important for shrubs that depend on multiple stems.

Wound response is initiated by the sudden presence of oxygen and lack of restriction to cell expansion. The chemical and physical nature of the newly exposed surface is altered, creating a barrier to infection by wood-decay fungi. Plugs then block the affected xylem and phloem that carry water and nutrients up, sugars and other chemicals down. Third, the plant keeps any infection from circling around with a barrier along the rays that go out through the wood in all directions from the center. Finally, especially if it is young or the wound is small, it constructs a complete new outer wall by rolling in callus wood from the sides of the wound.

Through this process a woody plant attempts to seal (not: heal) the infected area around the wound, surrounding it with a barrier zone. Since a great deal of energy

is required, it is crucial that the plant be able to execute efficient photosynthesis as it works, and that the work time be as short as possible. In fact, recommended care of wounded trees follows these two principles. This is why a clean cut across the face of the branch collar is best, why younger trees and smaller wounds seal better, and why one of the best treatments of a wounded tree is to supply it with 2"/week of water through the drier parts of the season.

Bud response is initiated by the sudden removal of the terminal or apical bud from a branch or larger structure. A plant's form results from a complex interaction between genetics and environment. The genetic component consists first of interacting growth hormones, primarily auxins and gibberellins, that affect individual buds and other tissues. Auxins being transported down from the shoot apex suppress lateral and other buds below it, especially during a shoot's first growing season. Gibberellins transported up from the root apex promote bud release and shoot elongation, when auxin is weak or absent. When you add to this mix the fact that the terminal growing point dies after one year in some species (like birches), and does not in others, you can see how genetics can produce such varied form.

When we prune, then, we remove the inhibiting force of the auxins that is responsible for apical dominance, and necessarily alter the plant's structure. Usually, the bud closest to the cut will establish new dominance over the shoot. This is why the question is not "Where do I cut," but "Which bud do I want to release?"

Environmental influence on form comes from the essential competition for light, which all plants try to reach by growing upwards or sideways. When a plant is shaded, differential growth is triggered by

the reallocation of sugars and auxins to the darker side of a shoot. When a plant is illuminated, buds on that side tend to be released because of the increased breakdown of auxins. These two processes mean that, when a plant is trying to reach the light, all the pruning in the world will not keep it from growing in that direction.

Pruning against these genetic and environmental signals is a bit like trying to paddle upstream: you waste a lot of energy, feel frustrated, and don't get very far. Successful pruning works with genetic and environmental constraints. Start by making some careful observations. How is the plant trying to grow? From what part of the plant (top, middle, bottom) does growth usually begin? What is causing the growth responses I see? How can I use those responses and their causes in making pruning decisions? Once you have answered these questions, your pruning is sure to improve. ▲

Jerry Bond, Community Forester, Cornell Cooperative Extension — Monroe County via Email: jbond@cce.cornell.edu

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IDENTIFYING TREES AT RISK FROM ICE AND WIND

By Douglas C. Allen

Since the "microburst" of 1995, New York's forests have experienced additional episodes of severe wind and a devastating ice storm. Natural disturbances like these have always played a major role in shaping our forested landscapes and will continue to do so. Because of their infrequency, however, most forest owners were surprised at the intensity and geographic extent of these recent events. After examining a number of wind and ice damaged stands this past summer, it became obvious that soil conditions, tree health and tree form often determined the degree to which individual trees were affected.

There are many situations where it would be to a forest owners advantage if he or she was able to identify trees which are most vulnerable to this type of damage before it occurred. This knowledge could help when making decisions about trees to remove during certain forest management operations. Even if there is no desire to actively manage for wood products, it still might be advantageous to be able to identify trees that have a high risk of sustaining severe damage from excessive wind and ice in contrast to trees with relatively low risk. For example, one might want to remove high risk trees adjacent to trails in stands managed principally for recreational purposes or in sugarbushes where damage to tubing and other equipment would be costly.

Soil characteristics - trees located on very thin soil have a higher risk of being uprooted compared to trees with a well established root system on relatively deep soils. Perpetual wet spots or seeps often prevent tree roots from penetrating to adequate depths, especially when soils have a high clay content. Failure to establish deep roots also occurs when a tree straddles a large boulder or occurs over bedrock that comes close to the surface (*Fig. 1*)

Tree health and form - when a tree bole is extensively damaged by an insect or decay fungus, it is likely to break at the point of injury when exposed to high, gusty winds. Agents commonly encountered in northern hardwood stands are sugar maple borer (*Fig. 2*), fungi that cause cankers (*Fig. 3*) and other types of decay or injury. Damage such as this often renders a tree bole susceptible to "windsnap" at the point of injury (*Fig. 4*).

When a tree bole forks it is likely to split under the weight of excessive ice or when exposed to high winds, especially when decay exists where the two bole sections converge (*Fig. 5*) or the bole forks at a wide angle.

Management implications - there is no way to prevent wind or ice damage. The best we can do is try to minimize the impact of these natural events. A tree's sus-

ceptibility to damage is directly related to storm intensity and is often influenced by aspect, elevation and location (i.e., edge of an opening vs. stand interior). Under the right conditions even healthy and well rooted trees exposed to extreme winds or heavy ice deposits may be blown over or severely damaged. We know some species (e.g., willow and aspen) are especially brittle and more likely to break up than others. Similarly, any tree whose crown extends above the general canopy or has unusually wide spreading branches (i.e., a typical "wolf" tree) is more likely to bear the brunt of excessive wind or ice. Some of these situations can be addressed through forest management activities. Certainly



Fig. 1. Left. Typical blowdown—shallow rooted sugar maple growing on thin soil.

Fig. 2. Above. Bole damage caused by sugar maple borer.

Fig. 3. Below. Bole weakened by a canker fungus.





Fig. 4. Sugar maple bole broken or "snapped" at point of injury.

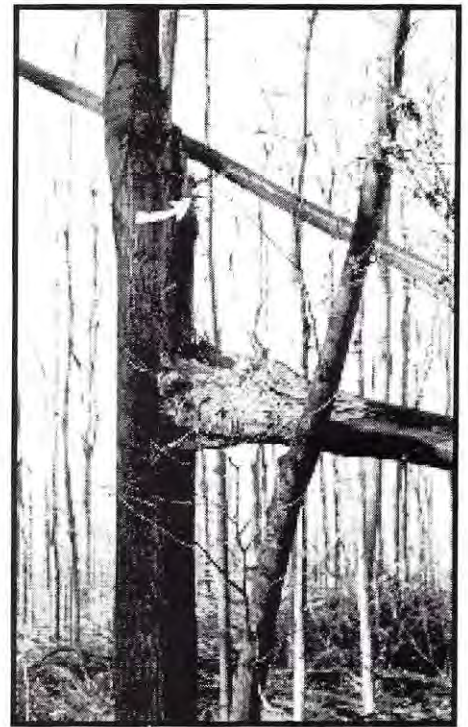
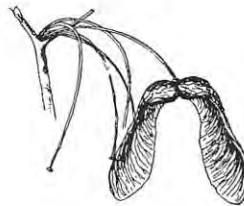


Fig. 5. Decay weakened the right hand fork of this maple bole. Arrow indicates original point of attachment and location of decay.

identifying and removing trees that are in a condition or situation which makes them highly vulnerable may decrease the overall effect of these natural disturbances and will help to preserve the character of a stand. ▲

tion from the DEC Web page by clicking on articles using the following address: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/df/privland/linkspag.html>

This is the 43rd in the series of articles contributed by Dr. Allen, Professor of Entomology at SUNY-ESF. Reprints of this and the complete series are available from NYFOA, phone Debbie Gill at 800-836-3566. It is also possible to download this collec-



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DREAMING IN WINTER

By Jane Sorensen Lord, PHD, OTR, ND

Lots of gray blah days this January. I look out my office window and can't see across the pond because of mist, fog, rain, sleet, snow in one combination or another.

My desk piles up with catalogues, books, magazines, stuff I usually throw away but keep because they are colorful. I carefully read each seed catalogue. I'm going to start a scent garden this year for aroma therapy use so I dog ear potential entries for the plants I don't have and which flourish in full sun.

Horizon Herbs (541-846-6704) offers the most comprehensive medicinal plant seed catalogue. They have over 500 varieties each described. You are given use, origin and cultivation information. I kept the booklet from last year to use as a back up herbal.

I give seminars, mostly for therapists, on wildcrafting—the identification, collection and preparation of medicinal plants and trees. Part of the course is devoted to learning to use field guides which identify plants then to cross reference to herbals to discover use.

Because pictures and photos of a particular plant look different book to book, I give the group four different guides. The first four or five plants we identify I tell the name, pick and let them sniff and feel. Then they look it up in each of the different books. As leaf type, flower type and plant structure become a bit familiar to the group, I just stop at a plant and point.

Once they identify the plants they look it up in herbals. I use three or four of them, too, because different practitioners prefer different herbs to solve problems. I give each participant a copy of John Lust's *The Herb Book* (Bantam, NY 1974). It describes many herbs, and also gives good information on storing, drying, preparing and lots of novel uses like dyes.

I have a great new herbal, too, but it is too big to carry into the field. The first edition of the PDR (Physician's Desk Reference) for Herbal Medicines (Medical Er-

gonomics Co., Montvale, NJ 1998) is impressive. It has beautiful pictures and full descriptions of herbs that include actions and pharmacology, effects, indications and usage, precautions and adverse reactions, and references. The American company retained PhytoPharm Consulting, a German company of plant scientists, herbalists, physicians and chemists.

Their presentation is straightforward and scientific. And supports our lore!

This year I'll be using another type of "herbal", too. Francois Couplan, PhD's the *Encyclopedia of Edible Plants of North America* (Keats Publishing, New Canaan, CT, 1998). This 500+ page book tells what plants we can eat, which particular part or parts and whether to cook, dry, or pickle, and even comments on taste and texture.

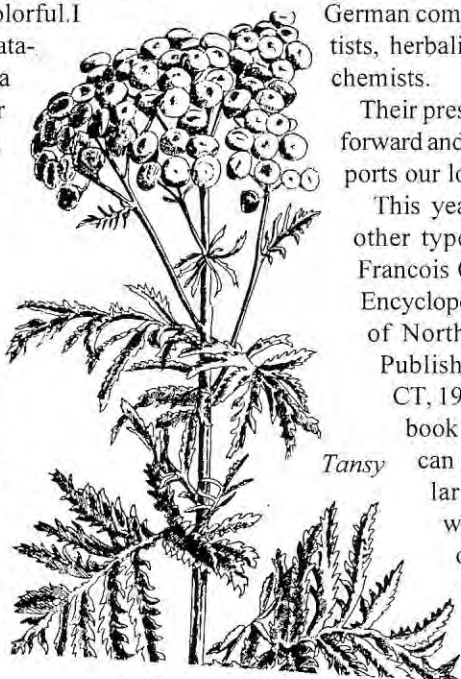
I can't wait to walk a group into the woods


and pluck tansy leaves to rub on our skin to keep bugs away, then add that the English use the leaves as a condiment in omelets and puddings. I know not to eat too much, but wonder if it will act as an insect repellent from the inside out. I'll let you know this summer!

Dr. Couplan also included Japanese bamboo (*Polygonum cuspidatum*). When Steve Davison (*Ask A Forester*) wrote that it was supposed to taste like asparagus I wasn't too intrigued. But it is a member of the rhubarb family and tastes like that. The PDR indicates it for coughs and respiratory problems. M-m-m-m medicinal rhubarb. Yummy!

My last article on butchering a deer either amused and/or amazed our own John J. Mettler, Jr, DVM because his book, *Basic Butchering of Livestock and Game* (Storey Books, VT 1986) arrived by priority mail right after my story appeared!

It made me feel better to find out that my difficulties were not as much from my age and sex, but because I was working upside down and backwards!



Next fall, after I butcher my deer correctly, I'm going to make a sauce from Russian olive and viburnum berries. Dr. Couplan says they taste great. And then I'll collect roots from plants at the edge of my pond—bulrush, cattail and water plantain to make dumplings. Too bad I can't see the pond and that we have a snow cover. Sounds so good I'd do it now! 

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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R.J. Fox, Editor
RD#3, Box 88
Moravia, NY 13118
Fax/Phone (315) 497-1078
Email: dfox@baldcom.net
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- MAR 31:** WFL; 7:30PM; Attracting Wildlife, Co. Extension Ctr., 716-728-3044.
- APR 10:** CNY; Tree Grafting Workshop; State Fairgrounds; 315-689-7682.
- APR 11:** CDC; Pine Bush Tour; DEC & Nature Conservancy; 518-239-6768.
- APR 17:** SAC; Flagler Arboretum Tour; Jim Durlier; 518-747-5958.
- APR 17:** NAC; Mill Tour, Tupper Lake; Wawbeek Plantation & History.
- APR 24:** NYFOA SPRING MEETING; SUNY ESF Marshall Hall, Syracuse.

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