

# The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

September/October 1999



*Volume 37 Number 5*



FOUNDED 1963



**THE NEW YORK  
FOREST OWNERS  
ASSOCIATION**

Volume 37, Number 5

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**The New York  
Forest Owner**

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

*Materials submitted for publication should be sent to: Mary Beth Malmsheimer, Editor, The New York Forest Owner, 134 Lincklaen Street, Cazenovia, New York 13035. Materials may also be e-mailed to mmalmshe@syr.edu. Articles, artwork and photos are invited and if requested, are returned after use. The deadline for submission for the November/December issue is October 1, 1999.*

**Please address all membership fees and change of address requests to P.O. Box 180, Fairport, N.Y. 14450. 1-800-836-3566. Cost of individual membership/subscription is \$20.**

**COVER:** Felling and bucking crew at Munro Woodlot in Camillus, NY. October, 1922. Photo courtesy of SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF) Archives.



# From The President

A couple of weeks ago Peggy and I stopped for dinner at Brooks' Chicken Barbecue in Oneonta. While waiting to be seated, we were delighted to see on the bulletin board a NYFOA patch, a Tree Farm sign, and the "I am an American Tree Farmer" bumper sticker. My thanks to Joan and John Brooks and their family for displaying signs of good forestry in a place for many to see.

The signs are reminiscent of a plaque hanging in my office many years ago from a community service agency with which I was affiliated. Visitors used to ask me about the plaque—which of course, was exactly its purpose.



There are many facets to spreading the word to landowners and the general public on the wise use of our forest resources. While we can sometimes speak directly with landowners, we need to consider indirect communication to landowners and the general public as well. Messages through roadside signs, bumper stickers, and bulletin boards can all be helpful. Perhaps you know of a bulletin board near you that would help, or possibilities for a sign in your office or place of business that would attract questions and convey a message.

The Brooks family has set an example for all of us — let's run with it! Let me know what works in your area.

At the June 26<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors meeting, the list of ideas on future steps for NYFOA was discussed further and consensus reached on short term objectives in the following areas: Chapter Development, Landowner Outreach, Public Policy, Communications, and Youth Education. I hope all NYFOA members will pitch in with their ideas and energies as committees are formed in these areas and efforts go forward.

County units of the New York Farm Bureau are being invited to consider timber theft prevention and wise harvesting practices as programs for their meetings for this fall. Earlier this year, State Farm Bureau President John Lincoln told me that he feels their farmer members would benefit from learning more about their farm woodlots. He pointed out that many farmers might be vulnerable to less-than-ideal proposals regarding their timber, since their major focus must be on their livestock and crops.

As a result, Farm Bureau and NYFOA are sharing local contact lists so that county Farm Bureau leaders can contact local NYFOA leaders, and vice versa, in those counties in which Farm Bureau wants to explore use of NYFOA's TIMBER THEFT!!! video program. This is an important outreach opportunity for both NYFOA and the Farm Bureau.

I hope to see many of you at NYFOA's fall meeting in Rochester on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Our Western Finger Lakes chapter has put a lot of work into planning and arranging an excellent program on urban forestry — see page 9 for details. See you there!

— Ron Pedersen  
President

## Join!

NYFOA is a not-for-profit group of NY State landowners

promoting stewardship of private forests. Stewardship puts into practice knowledge of forest ecosystems, silviculture, local economies, watersheds, wildlife, natural aesthetics and even law for the long term benefit of current and future generations. NYFOA, through its local chapters, provides this knowledge for landowners and the interested public.

Join NYFOA today and begin to receive the many benefits including: six issues of *The New York Forest Owner*, woodwalks, chapter meetings, and two statewide meetings for all members.

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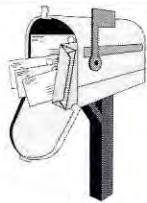
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# In The MAIL



## Woodlands Field Day

The Southern Finger Lakes Chapter had a Woodland Field Day at Cornell University's Arnot Forest on July 10. Many people came and we had a good time. In addition to a walk through a wildlife habitat and forest demonstration area, a special program was presented in the afternoon, one which may be of interest to other Chapters of NYFOA.

This program introduced us to the mysteries of property surveys. It had two parts: Allen Fulkerson, a chapter member and land surveyor, spoke about current land surveying procedures. Later, members Tim Levatich and Robert O'Brien gave us exercises on how to locate survey elements in the field.

Where do we find our property deeds? Do we know the boundaries of our forest accurately or only vaguely? How many of us can locate corners, find distant points with ease, know how to settle disputes about the exact location of property lines and corners with our neighbors?

These and many other questions were answered in detail. Al showed us modern surveying equipment and let us

use it. He talked about old and new surveys, how they were prepared and how their accuracies differ, where and how to find deeds and surveys of our properties. Tim taught us how to pace distances accurately without dragging a long tape around the woods and Bob had us use our compass to walk in a straight line towards a given target. It was all very fascinating.

These are topics and skills every forest owner should be very familiar with and all Chapters would be well advised to conduct instructive programs on these subjects. How, for example, can we deal with timber theft unless we know all of the above? Most surveyors will be pleased to participate if asked by their local forest owners. Most foresters will be equally glad to teach members how to find things in the forest using compass and pacing. This knowledge and these skills are easy to acquire at a Chapter field day such as we had. Try it, it is a lot of fun!

—Peter S. Levatich  
Brooktondale, NY



Woodland Field Day at Arnot Forest.

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# LISTENING

DINNIE SLOMAN

**A**s a proud member of the Society of American Foresters, I hold foresters in high esteem. They have at least a college degree, with some holding graduate degrees. Regardless of the level of education, most foresters have years of on-the-ground, practical experience. These two traits mean that foresters have the knowledge to manage forests. Foresters are interdisciplinary managers who balance the landowner's goals with the science and methodology required to enhance timber, wildlife, water, recreation, livestock and other resources. Equally important, most foresters have a passion, beyond the need to earn a living, to help society get the natural resources it needs, to help landowners meet their goals and to protect ecosystem health and function. As professionals, foresters recognize their ethical duty.

Unfortunately, we all know that this positive vision of the forestry profession is not shared by everyone. Due to the controversies over owl habitat and clear cutting, environmentalists have criticized foresters harshly. But are radical activists the only ones pointing fingers? In the last few months I have heard several interesting comments about foresters. Here are three examples:

*"Foresters only look up at sawlogs. If you want to manage for wildlife, you will have to force them to look at the ground where wildlife lives. Foresters don't really care about wildlife. They will try to tell you that managing for timber*

*will always improve wildlife habitat, even if the species you wish to favor has other needs."*

*"When starting to manage your land, begin by getting independent advice. Don't make the mistake of beginning with a logger or a forester. Neither is independent since both have a financial stake in the management of your property."*

*"It's too bad foresters don't consider anything but the value of timber. They should admit that they don't know anything or care about wildlife and fish. Then maybe they could help landowners by reaching out to wildlife and fisheries managers."*

These comments did not come from ignorant, anti-forestry people. In fact, they came from some of our biggest supporters. The first quote was made by a former New York State Tree Farmer of the Year and Master Forest Owner who knows, likes and uses foresters for the management of his property. His statement was made to a group of landowners just beginning wildlife management on their properties. The second quote came from a member of NYFOA and a Master Forest Owner, who has used the services of a forester during his timber harvests. He was speaking to a different group of landowners thinking about their management options. The third statement was made at a project planning meeting involving representatives from several different agencies and organizations. It was made by an employee of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

My first inclination, as a forester, is to get a little angry and dismiss the statements as misguided. I know many foresters who do not fit the image depicted by these statements. Yet, knowing the sources, foresters have to take them seriously. These perceptions,

having been based on years of experience with foresters, are just as valid as mine. Foresters must admit that, in general, we have failed to create a positive image of our profession even with people actively using our services! Foresters cannot excuse these attitudes as being the smear tactics of radical activists. They (I) only have themselves (myself) to blame.

Here are my suggestions to foresters, including myself. (1) Foresters must listen and learn. Take every comment seriously and evaluate whether behavioral changes will improve our image. Small, individual steps by many people will add up. (2) Adopt strategies and business practices from the realm of customer service. Pleasing the customer requires that we listen and serve them as best we can. Within reason, deliver what they want. (3) If we wish to be treated as interdisciplinary experts, then we must either learn the other disciplines or bring in experts as needed. (4) We must examine our fees and commissions to expose systems that create potential conflicts, and then adopt different, creative methods of compensation that are not tied to our management decisions. Since I know that many foresters believe that timber sale commissions are the only way to earn a living, this suggestion probably will rile a few of them. Nevertheless, it is hard to argue with the concerns of our knowledgeable landowning friends.

Image is built one forester at a time. Big media public relations campaigns by the Society of American Foresters will not have the same impact as a bunch of thoughtful, independent foresters "doin' the right thing." I know we are proud of our profession. Let's spread that good feeling to our clients and the rest of society. 🌲

*Dinnie Sloman is the current chair of the New York Society of American Foresters and Executive Director of the Catskill Forest Association, Arkville, NY.*

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# A New Renewable Energy Source Growing On Western New York Farms

STACIE EDICK AND TIM VOLK

A new source of renewable energy is growing on farms in Western New York. Carefully selected hybrid willow and poplar bioenergy crops are being planted to supply fuel to be co-fired with coal in electric power plants. (See NYFO "Commercialization and Scale Up of Willow Biomass For Renewable Energy" Nov/Dec 96, Vol.35, No. 6) To date, almost 300 acres have been planted on leased, privately owned land in Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties. Over 20 organizations have joined together under the umbrella of the Salix Consortium to develop a commercially viable and environmentally sustainable willow bioenergy industry. The project is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's Biomass Power for Rural Development Program, USDA, and NYS Energy Research and Development Authority. Niagara Mohawk Power Company is the lead agency on the project. The State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF) has been conducting research in short

rotation intensive woody crops since 1983. Cornell University Biological and Agricultural Engineering has adapted Swedish planting machinery to meet local conditions. South Central New York Resource Conservation and Development (SoCNY RC&D) has been helping with landowner/farmer participation, and community outreach and education efforts.

## Market

Bioenergy crops are attractive to the power generation industry because they can reduce emissions at the power plant. Co-firing wood with coal reduces sulfur emissions, and under certain conditions may reduce nitrous oxide emissions as well, both precursors of acid rain. Willow biomass crops are considered carbon dioxide neutral because the growing crops absorb as much CO<sub>2</sub> as is released during production and burning of the fuel. This aspect will become increasingly important with the growing concern over global warming and the need to reduce levels of atmospheric carbon.

Deregulation of the electric utility industry in New York State has created a new challenge for the Salix Consortium. Niagara Mohawk recently sold the Dunkirk Power Plant to NRG, a subsidiary of Northern States Power of Minnesota. It is still too early to determine if NRG will choose to join the Salix Consortium. But it is encouraging that Niagara Mohawk has been in the process of making retrofits to one of the Dunkirk boilers to allow co-firing of wood. The handling and storage facilities for wood are near completion.

The need for a renewable source of energy is the driving force behind the Willow Bioenergy Project, but with the complexities of deregulation in New York State other markets are being explored. Supplemental markets for willow may include feedstock for chemical production, institutional heating, medium grade pellet fuel for high efficiency residential pellet stoves, landscaping mulch, composting material, basketry and craft uses, and composite materials such as fiberboard.

## Why Willow?

Many people know that willow is not a good choice for firewood and question why it would be grown for fuel. While willow does not compare well on a volume or per cord basis to other woods such as maple and beech, it does in fact provide as much energy or BTU's on a per ton basis. So, although it is not a good choice for a wood stove (which would require frequent loading), it is an excellent choice as a fuel crop for power plants.

Willow shrubs have been selected for their ease of establishment, rapid growth, strong coppicing ability (shrubs grow back when cut low) and disease



The first Willow Biomass Community Meeting was held in Fredonia, NY on October 28, 1998.





*The Frobbesta plants 10-inch cuttings at the rate of one-half acre per hour.*

resistance. Once established, willows fully occupy the site and are a low maintenance crop compared to other annual crops. Coppice harvesting allows multiple harvests from the same root-stock, so fields do not have to be replanted for 21 years or 7 harvests. Yields are very high. Willow crops produce 5-7 oven-dry tons per acre per year, or 15-21 oven-dry tons per acre at harvest. These advantages make willow a promising bioenergy crop.

### **Production System**

Willow is spring planted in a dense double row system, at a rate of about 6,200 cuttings per acre. The hybrid willows selected for this system do not spread by root suckers. The Swedish Frobbesta was the first planting machine

used in the project. It plants one double row using 10-inch cuttings, at a rate of 1/2 acre per hour. A third of this year's 200 acres was planted with a new Step Planter. This is the first machine of its kind in North America. The Swedish Step Planter can plant two double rows at a time using 4-6 foot whips, at a rate of 2 acres per

hour. Cornell University Biological and Agricultural Engineering supervises and trains crew on the new machinery and makes adjustments and changes as necessary. FORECON Inc. of Jamestown has provided the crew for the planting season and maintenance of the willow crops.

Weed control is extremely important during establishment. Both chemical and mechanical methods are used. The willow is cut back in the winter of the first year to encourage growth of multiple stems the following spring. Harvest occurs every 3 to 5 years from the same root stock. Harvesting in the winter after leaf fall allows nutrients to return to the root system to assure vigorous growth the following spring.

The Salix Consortium has been considering three harvesting options. The Claus Jaguar is a corn harvester with a modified head. It cuts and chops the willow and blows the chips into a wagon. The advantage to this machine is that it can be used for corn harvest in the fall, and by changing heads it can also be used in the winter for harvesting willow. The Bender is a smaller, tractor-mounted harvester. It also cuts and chips the willow and blows the chips into a wagon. It is smaller and less expensive and could be used on a greater variety of fields, smaller fields with more slope. However, it does not harvest as many acres per hour as the Claus does. The final option is a whole-stem harvester. The advantage to this is that the whole stems can be left in the field to dry before chipping, thereby reducing transportation costs by decreasing the amount of water being transported.

### **Landowner and Farmer Participation**

The Salix Consortium has designed two options for landowners who want to participate in the development of this new crop. The first is to lease land where the Consortium is responsible for all aspects of production and maintenance of the crop. The second option is to contract with farmers to grow the willow. In order for the project to

*continued on page 8*

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*The new Step Planter plants two double rows at a rate of 2 acres per hour.*



## A New Renewable Energy Source (con't from page 7)

benefit from the extensive knowledge of local farmers, and to provide them with hands-on experience with willow biomass crops, the Salix Consortium is negotiating with area farmers who will be closely involved in the production process. They will be responsible for site preparation, planting, weed control and maintenance. The Consortium will provide technical supervision and harvesting. SoCNY RC&D is assisting the Consortium to identify and work with these local farmers.

Dennis Barmore of Gerry, NY was the first farmer to sign on under the grower option. He is enthusiastic about trying this new crop on his farm. His neighbor, Al Brown is leasing 20 acres to the Salix Consortium. Al was attracted to the project because he says, "The Willow Biomass Project includes three dominant themes of this century and the century to come. These are research into and development of alternative sources of energy production, more usage of renewable and sustainable resources, and greater concern for the environment. Although biomass fuels are already used in Northern Europe, this is a new concept for our area as a crop and as a source of income on today's marginal farmland. Biomass fuels also can be a partial answer to the problems of pollution for coal-fired power plants. We are looking forward to working with the many parties involved in getting this project underway for the sake of the environment, the economy, and technological progress in general."

### Other Benefits

Willow crops can also provide multiple non-market benefits. Cornell University's Department of Ornithology is conducting studies on bird diversity in willow crops. Thirty-four bird species have been seen and 7 of these have been found nesting in the willow plantings. Harvesting occurs in the winter months

when birds are not nesting. Furthermore, willows attract successional species, birds that choose habitats of fields changing into forest. These birds are accustomed to finding new nesting sites every few years or even every season. With other willow acreage in the vicinity, and similar natural habitat available as well, the loss of harvested fields should not cause a problem for the birds. Three-year-old willow stands might provide a suitable habitat for Golden-Winged Warblers. These birds are rapidly declining in New York, partly due to loss of habitat, and partly due to hybridization with Blue-Winged Warblers.

Because of willows' rapid growth, extensive perennial root system and high rate of nutrient uptake, willow crops could be used on farms in nutrient management plans. Willows have been used for phytoremediation: they are planted on contaminated sites to provide both ground cover and to reduce levels of contaminants in the soil. Willow has also been established along highways as a living snow fence and it provides a good windbreak for farms and residential uses.

While co-firing wood with coal in power plants reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, there is also the possibility that scientists will develop a way to measure the amount of carbon that willow and other bioenergy crops store in the soil. This would provide a "carbon sink" to store carbon that would otherwise be cycled

into the atmosphere. (See NYFO "Forests and Climate Change" July/Aug 98 Vol. 36, No. 4)

### To Find Out More

The Salix Consortium will be hosting a Community Meeting on October 6, 1999 at the Agricultural Service Center in Jamestown, NY. The Community Meeting is intended to inform the public about the Willow Bioenergy Project and to continue a dialogue about economic, environmental and agricultural benefits. A presentation will be made, giving an overview of the project and Salix Consortium partners will be available to answer questions. A site tour of willow crops will also be available.

For more information on the Willow Bioenergy Project or the Community Meeting, please contact:

Stacie Edick  
Biomass Field Representative  
SoCNY RC&D  
99 North Broad Street  
Norwich, NY 13815  
Phone 607-334-4715 ext 4  
or email  
[stedick@nynorwich.fsc.usda.gov](mailto:stedick@nynorwich.fsc.usda.gov)

You can also visit SUNY ESF's Willow Biomass web site  
[www.esf.edu/willow](http://www.esf.edu/willow)

*Stacie Edick is Biomass Field Representative, SoCNY Resource Conservation & Development. Tim Volk is Biomass Program Director at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.*

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# NYFOA Fall Membership Meeting

Saturday, October 9, 1999

Sponsored by  
Western Fingerlakes Chapter

Urban Forestry at Cornell Cooperative Extension  
249 Highland Avenue  
Rochester, NY

Rochester has been a leader in urban forestry since tree planting on city streets commenced in 1837. The world's largest nursery of the 19th century became Highland Park, designed by Frederick Olmstead in 1888. It contained many exotic trees and 315 species of conifers. See some of the unusual trees that will grow in our area. Their management and that of the park will be discussed by City, County, and DEC foresters.

## Agenda:

10:00-11:00 am	Coffee and Registration at Highland Avenue
11:00-12:00 am	Urban Forestry in Parks
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00-5:00 pm	Tour of Highland and Durand Eastman Parks
5:30-6:30 pm	Social Hour: Cash Bar at Winton Place
6:30-7:30 pm	Dinner
7:30-8:30 pm	Urban Forestry in Cities

## Directions:

You can reach 249 Highland Ave. via Interstate 390 from the south from Route 17 or Thruway Exit 46. Go North on 390 to Exit 16. Then north on Route 15A to South Avenue or Mt. Hope Avenue. Proceed 1.5 miles and turn right on Highland Ave; Exit 16 on Interstate 390 can also be reached, through several confusing interchanges: from the Thruway exit 47 take 490 to 390 south, or from Exit 45 take 490 to 590 south to 390 north. *Maps for tours, dinner, and lodging will be available at the meeting.*

## Lodging:

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## Detach Reservation Form

Reservations and cancellations must be received by Thursday September 30, 1999

Attending from 10 am - 5:00 pm # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
Attending from 10 am - 8:30 pm # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$27.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
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# Along the Finger Lakes Trail: *A Gift from the Beans of McGraw, NY*

---

IRENE SZABO

About ten miles straight east of Cortland, lies Taylor Valley State Forest. It runs along both sides of a road by the same name, and parallels Cheningo Creek at the bottom of a steep-sided (viciously understated!) valley. The state forest sports its own treasures and treats, upon which I shall later wax rhapsodic paragraphs, but the crowning surprise is along the level top of the west side. There, a private inholding within state forest has remained accessible to the hiking public due to the echoing effects of a dead man's land ethic.

After World War I their father each gave Merton Bean and his brothers \$1,000.00, and urged that they invest it wisely in "safe" railroad stock. To his father's dismay, Merton Bean bought two tired-out hilltop farms for \$500 apiece; properties at 1,800-1,900 feet in elevation that were reachable, even in 1920, only by abandoned town roads! Before the state even began reforestation, Bean had all the open areas hand planted to young trees by hiring the wives of Italian immigrants for that

painful and boring task. One shudders to think what Bean paid them, but Bean's foresight in replanting these useless fields was astounding and well ahead of his time.

I wish I'd met Merton Bean; he was a landowner who welcomed the Finger Lakes Trail (FLT) across his property in a neighborhood I've only hiked through. The Adirondack Mountain Club's Onondaga Chapter, out of the Syracuse area, made all the landowner contacts. They built the trail through this region so I didn't hear of the Beans until after Merton's death. I was fortunate to speak to his son William only then because his heirs gave the Finger Lake Trail Conference a *permanent* easement before they sold the forested property. Merton had been so interested in conservation, hiking, and sharing the outdoors with youngsters, as well as delighted to have the Finger Lakes Trail cross his property, that his grown children knew he would have granted a permanent trail route permission had we been smart



*Merton Bean pruning one of his trees*

enough to invent the concept while he was still alive.

William did solve one mystery for me: the Beans came to nearby Solon from New Hampshire in 1804. They immediately built farms

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on hilltops, as did all their neighbors, because it was accepted "fact" that lowland swamps and mosquitoes caused "fevers." Today the public enjoys thousands of acres of public reforestation land, mostly on hilltops, because that's where settlers thought they *should* try to cultivate rocky, waterless knobs with thin soil and longer winters. Their farms' eventual failures gave New York State the opportunity to buy ruined land cheap that should have stayed forested anyway. Lucky us.

There are literally several days' worth of hilly state forest hiking trails available in this area, which are not subject to the whims of changing private owners. This is an immense relief to the group that must maintain trail continuity and good landowner relations for a mind-boggling 90 miles of trail. While the state can log its forests, causing trail reroutes or extra clean up by volunteers, that's not a patch on the agony of worrying over the critical private trail sections that connect each long state forest walk. For instance, what good is a ten-mile trail through a state forest without access from a road? Bean's property, plunk in the middle of extensive public land with a dizzying drop-off along the east edge, was one of those vital links; if the FLT had lost permission through there, the long and senseless reroute around it would have meant a sad loss in trail quality.

The Bean property has provided a quality walk: nearly level, it features



Merton Bean


both middle-aged evergreen plantations and 75-year-old maturing hardwoods. A spring walk one year showed surprise clumps of old-fashioned double daffodils in bloom, hinting at the farm homes that must have stood nearby perhaps a hundred years ago. The new owners of the Bean estate had much of the immigrant-planted hardwoods harvested soon after the trail easement went into effect, but plenty of seed trees remain in the forest. In the unexpected sunshine after selective logging, wildflowers ran riot that year, and we hikers on a wonderful day in early May 1997 thought we'd seen the best a day could offer in the way of varieties and quantity.

Then we dropped off the hill into heaven. The west side of Taylor Valley is so incredibly steep that the trail route follows a DEC truck trail, called "Cortland Two Road," that was dug slanting gradually across the hillside for over two miles after World War II. A perfectly drivable dirt road, in other than snowy times, affords even the legless and lungless a close look at the most flower-bathed hillside imaginable. Under a dark forest canopy of maple and ash there were literally millions of nodding white and deep red trillium carpeting the ground, and this ecstasy kept going for miles! Both squirrel corn and Dutchman's breeches showed their similar little upside-down pairs of whitish pants for learners to compare them. Every special wildflower that appears in that wondrous first week of

May was available there, and not just in stingy doses either. There was a veritable gluttony of beauty on all sides, and one was grateful for the gradually graded road for walking, lest footfalls squash four flowers per step.

The footpath leaves the road before the bottom and slants back

across the base of the dark hillside just above the boggy and busy Cheningo at 1200 feet. While summer thunderstorms can render the creek unapproachable, most times it can be crossed on a rustic wooden footbridge into the state's briefly level picnic and camping area under tall Norway spruce, 700 feet below the Bean forest. Soon, of course, the trail climbs the east side on a slope that tilts just shy of requiring travel on all fours . . . one of those toils that made me ask between grunts and gasps just WHY I was hiking this a second time!

Why, indeed. Suppose I had not followed friends there for the treats of early May just because I had already "done" that trail on FLT Map 21? 

*In addition to tending New York trails, Irene Szabo is a member of the Western Finger Lakes Chapter of NYFOA and a Director of the Finger Lakes Land Trust.*

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# GETTING STARTED IN FORESTRY

PETER SMALLIDGE

Whether your forest or woodlot is mixed among agricultural fields, part of a larger tract of forest, or on the edge of a suburban area, you share something similar with other forest owners who are interested in forestry — you all had to start someplace. However, getting started can be a barrier for many people to fully enjoying their forest.

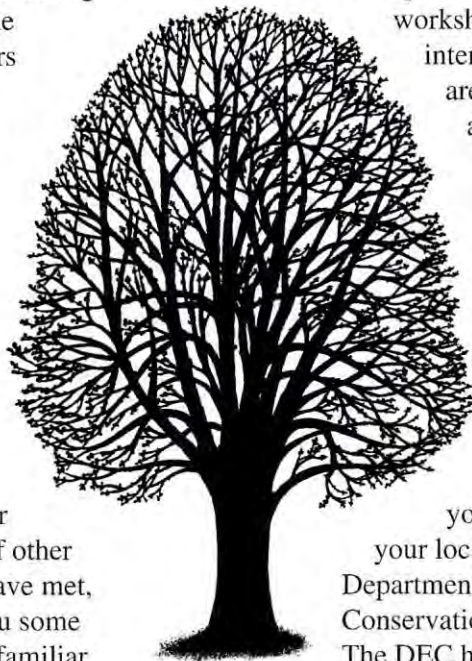
People own forests and woodlots for many different reasons and have an equal number of benefits they want to receive from their property. Knowing your reasons and desired benefits are your forest management objectives, a critical first step in getting started. Your objectives are the starting point in forestry because you can't know what you should do until you know what you want to do. Many people think of forest land as a place to produce timber, but many more benefits are also possible. Actually, most forest owners have objectives that focus more on wildlife, recreation, and aesthetics than selling timber. If you jointly own your property, with your spouse or business partner, discuss your objectives so everyone has the same vision. If you aren't quite sure what your objectives are, then ask yourself some questions: Why do you own the land? What do you like about your land? What do you dislike? What are your needs in 5, 10 or 20 years? Not all of your forest land will necessarily have the same primary objective. One area may be a sugar bush while another area is devoted to wildlife or recreation. The

answers to these questions and discussions with some of the people mentioned below will help you clarify your objectives. Having a clear sense, and ideally a written statement, of your objectives is important because your objectives should be the basis for all future activities on your property.

A good activity once you have started thinking about your objectives is to make a list of the people who are available to help you. These people can be divided into two groups, non-technical and technical. Non-technical assistance is provided through volunteers such as the Master Forest Owners who are trained by Cornell Cooperative Extension. Master Forest Owners, or MFOs, are forest owners like you who have an interest and commitment to helping other forest owners get started. They have a wealth of experience from their property and those of other forest owners they have met, and can help give you some ideas. They are also familiar with the people and publications that

can help you make a final decision. Additional non-technical assistance is available through groups such as NYFOA or the Catskill Forest Association. Your local office of Cornell Cooperative Extension can help you find a MFO in your neighborhood and they or the Department of Environmental Conservation can help you find the forest owner associations.

Technical assistance is also readily available throughout New York. For general information of forest and woodlot management contact your local office of Cornell Cooperative Extension. They have publications and bulletins with information on a variety of subjects such as tree identification, wildlife habitat, and forest owner planning. Cornell Cooperative Extension will also know of upcoming forest owner workshops that may be of interest to you. If you are interested in aerial photographs, topographic maps, or soils information you should check with you local Soil and Water Conservation District. For professional forestry advice you should contact your local New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) office. The DEC has professional foresters who will visit with you on





your property for free to discuss your forest management options. An earlier visit from a MFO may help give you some ideas and questions for the DEC forester. The DEC foresters will have information on cost-share programs and the New York Forest Tax Law. Finally, if you decide to contact a private forester, the DEC forester has a list for your county.

The next thing you will likely want to do, if you haven't already, is to become familiar with your property. Look over the maps and photos you received from your Soil and Water Conservation District. Walk through the woods on some of the old trails and woods roads that may exist. Walk the boundary lines and make sure they are evident so others don't mistake some of your trees for their own.

Spend some time talking with those who own the adjacent property. Your neighbors may know something of the history of the area, the history of your forest, and perhaps the previous owner. Ideally you would mutually agree to inform each other of logging activities so there are no surprises.

Once you have started getting more familiar with your property you should work with your DEC forester or a private forester to write a forest management plan. Plan writing is a team effort with your forester, but as the owner you are the final decision maker for what happens on your forest. A written management plan will offer many benefits, including a statement of your objectives, a description of your property, the condition of the forest, the potential benefits you can expect from your forest, streams and soils, unique features, and the types of wildlife habitat that exist. The plan will also let you decide a schedule of activities that are consistent with your objectives. A plan isn't necessarily a complex document, and there may be cost-share money available to offset the cost so check with your DEC forester.

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These ideas will hopefully help you get started in the right direction with the management of your forest or woodlot. There are many benefits you can enjoy from your woodlot, and getting started correctly will ensure you can realize all those benefits. If you would like additional information you can contact Cornell University Department of Natural Resources (607) 255-2814 and request the "Extension Forestry General Information Packet." Also, contact your local office of Cornell Cooperative Extension for publications such as the Conservation Circular "Assistance for New York Forest Owners" or Information Bulletin 193 "Wildlife and Timber from Private Lands: A Landowner's Guide to Planning". Participating in forestry is the fun part, so enjoy the process. ▲

*Dr. Smallidge is the State Extension Forester, Cornell University. This article, which is part of a series entitled "Forests For Tomorrow," is available from Cornell Cooperative News Service.*

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# DEFOLIATION by Oystershell Scale

DOUGLAS C. ALLEN

This bizarre looking animal belongs to a group of insects known as the "hard" scales, the general biology and description of which appeared in the March/April 1997 issue of the *Forest Owner*. In that article, oystershell scale was depicted as a sucking insect found on the bark of the host. Indeed, this is its usual habitat on a variety of broadleaved trees and shrubs throughout the northern two-thirds of North America.

## Principle Hosts

Northeastern forests include maples, beech, ash, elm, linden, poplar, and willow. Oystershell scale first gained notoriety as a major pest in fruit

growing regions where heavy infestations often reduced the quantity and quality of produce, reduced leaf size, discolored foliage, and often killed the plant.

## Damage to Bark

Severe damage to bark of favored hosts such as apple, pear, plum, and ash occurs when scale populations are so high they completely encrust the bark with their waxy excretions. An individual scale's thread-like, sucking mouthparts are very small. Even so, during the feeding process cells are killed in the immediate vicinity of the feeding site. At high population densities, feeding sites eventually coalesce causing the bark to dry, crack and eventually it sloughs away.

## The Scale

The scale is approximately 1/8 inch long, narrow at the anterior end with a broad, round posterior (Fig. 1). The grayish to polished brown appearance is



*Figure 1* Twig of American beech infested with oystershell scale.



*Figure 2* Beech twig and leaf petiole encrusted with scale.

due mainly to the waxy excretion produced by the scale which becomes matted and fuses with cast skins of the immature stages. The scale's eggs overwinter beneath this covering.

## Defoliation

Unusual damage by oystershell scale in the form of defoliation occurred last summer in the central Adirondacks. Over the past several years, I have



Help for New York's forest owners . . . is available from the Extension Office of the SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry. We offer information and guidance on various issues and problems confronting forest owners including plant and tree characteristics and preferences, wildlife, insects, and diseases. Damage samples and on site inspection, when appropriate, are used to aid in diagnosing insect and disease problems followed by advice on control measures. Your call will also help alert us to potential forest health issues for New York's forests and enhance our ability to keep abreast of current conditions. Contact us at (315) 470-6751.





Figure 3 Scales on a beech leaf.

noticed this in other areas of central and northern New York state. Each time the host was either American beech or sugar maple. In addition to infesting twigs, the scale attacked leaves and leaf petioles (Figures 2 & 3). Feeding eventually caused leaves to drop, leaving a very thin crown. The ground beneath infested trees was covered with green to yellow-green leaves which eventually turn brown, and curl. Some brown, curled leaves may remain attached to branches. Other than discoloration, however, foliage appears undamaged; that is, there are no signs of feeding by a typical defoliator.

As yet, this has not become a wide spread problem, but observant forest owners may encounter defoliation of this nature in late June or early July. 🌲

*This is the 46th 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. It is also possible to download this collection from the DEC Web page at: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dlf/privland/linkspag.htm>.*

## At The Waters Edge

One troubled day  
I walked  
at the water's edge  
and looked  
with a whole  
and inquiring eye.

Here it is  
that two dissimilar  
worlds meet  
beneath  
a bright and broad  
seagull sky.

Life pushes  
and swirls  
at my foreign feet  
as small creatures  
swim the water,  
crawl the sand,

communing  
in the warm  
and friendly sun  
from habitats  
of sea  
and land.

The waters ripple  
with a joy that  
shames my envy  
as I slowly pass  
these borders  
of peace.

And the struggle  
of the worlds  
within me  
stares  
as hungry eyes  
denied a feast.

-Dorothy Darling

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# Motorized ATVs and Dirt-Bikes

## *What to do about them?*

---

RICHARD GIBBS

All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and dirt-bikes represent for many youths and adults alike, an invitation to uncontrolled freedom and excitement. Unfortunately, this usually means freedom to use and abuse somebody else's land, not their own. On my farm, I have an uneasy truce with the ATVs and dirt-bikes which means I let them ride on two access trails from suburban Wynantskill to reach the big power line. I would like to not have them anywhere near my land, as they rip and roar in spite of my quest for peace and quiet. Yet, they come in herds and can't be traced, caught, or accosted.

I have tried to accommodate, endure, and moderately contain where the ATVs and dirt-bikes operate. Most local ATV riders with whom I have made this multi-user trail accommodation follow my rules, but new riders always are coming of age. Seeing new trails being cut into my forest where I have woodroads and trails for skiing, mountain bike riding, and walking is common.

When Shari and I first purchased our farm and woodlot in the early 1980s, there were trees being cut, forts being built, fires set, and alcohol being consumed with bottles and cans strewn about. As this occurred, we tried to figure out what it meant to take ownership control of the property we were now making monthly payments on. An especially poignant event started our relationship with that crop of youngsters—I was angry at the destruction, but did not want to just lash out. I wrote a note to the unknown intruders, and put it in a jar near a log-cabin fort the youngsters were building with maple poles. I didn't know who I was writing

to. Nevertheless, I told them I remembered being a youngster in the woods. I too wanted them to feel free to come and enjoy the woods, but that they "...should not come to the woods to see if they could change the woods, rather come to the woods to have the woods change them..." I imagine it took some irrational instinct on my part to suppose that their primal need to act-out in nature could rise to a higher level. I left

---

“an amended ATV registration law might equate an ATV not having an approved radio tracer device as an unregistered vehicle subject to impoundment and removal from service if operating outside the owner's property”

---

this note and returned a few days later to see what would be the reaction. I found one of the young maple poles that had been cut for fort building cut in two, and on the pieces had been carved a reply to my note: “We care and understand, and will abide, The Builders.” These carved pieces are treasures that hang in our farmhouse as a constant reminder to our preferred approach in managing land-use interactions. However, ATVs and dirt-bikes seldom wait for even this vulnerable approach to friendship to take root.

There is a great difference between the ATVs and snow machines. Snowmobiles are self limiting with respect to

soil erosion and damage. They only run when there is snow cover, and stop when there is not. By contrast, ATVs and dirt-bikes rip and cut through sod and soil. If they churn a mud hole up, they immediately head for wider routes and soon they turn an entire wet area, on a previously firm hiking trail, into a mud-soup bog. These huge mud sink holes are common on any trail used by ATVs.

As a back-country skier and snowshoe trekker, snowmobiles can also offend my need and desire for clean, quiet experience. However, having served on the Trails Committee at Grafton Lakes State Park, and being a year-around rider of the mountain bicycle (MTB), I have come to understand the need and benefit of satisfying all trail users, and I support a “multi-user” philosophy when possible.

A recent issue of the regional classified magazine “*Want Ad Digest*,” had three full pages of ATVs and dirt-bikes for sale. The number of these machines greatly exceeds any imaginable set of trails where they could be ridden, even if allowed. Local police are unable to deal with them in any meaningful way. The same is true in remote trail areas such as the Taconic Crest system and Wild Forest areas of the Adirondack Park. The state DEC and other agencies will never have sufficient staff and facilities to patrol these remote locations and catch violators of the trail system. The electric utilities are also unable to enforce any meaningful restrictions on the use of these machines. The power line rights-of-way provides most of the links that riders use to reach private and public lands with no permission or enforcement.



According to NYS law, ATV and dirt-bikes are not allowed on any public lands in New York State unless posted signs authorize their use. Thus, figuring out how to welcome these users in any multi-user public forum is hard. They are by law disenfranchised and thus commonly unrepresented at local trail meetings. Power lines, abandoned town roads, state forests, private lands, gravel pits, snowmobile trails and unpatrolled maintained gravel roads serve as the "bandit" areas of common widespread use. Being cast in the official position of being outside the law couples with the chosen position of seeking care free reckless fun. Hey! We all need our "getaway" activities, and these machines provide that for many people. Not everybody is going to pedal a bike through the rocks and mud, nor undertake aerobic cross-country skiing for pleasure. The personal value for peace and quiet seems to come late in life.

NYS law has long required that ATVs and dirt-bikes pay fees and have registration plates attached to the machines. Yet these requirements, suitable for cars and machines that stay on set roadways and trails, are often meaningless for non-road machines already operating in a grey legal zone. I have seen ATVs with out-of-state plates, no plates and NY plates on my farm. However, even if one knows the plate, the process to take action with local authorities is clumsy and long in comparison to their speed and ability to head for cover. The police are responsive, but have been overrun by ATV technology. Perhaps it may be time to add more technology to the registration and oversight for this class of land and trail user.

A key problem is that officially there are no places in NYS where these devices can be directed for use. The official NYS/DMV booklet for owners of ATVs and dirt-bikes [7/95] says:

*"You may not drive an ATV on public lands unless they are specifically designated and posted for ATV use. Public land is not open for ATV use unless a sign specifically says so."*

Regarding operation on private lands:

*"You must have permission of the land owner or lessee."*

I have been on public lands in every sector of the state and never seen a sign suggesting that using an ATV is OK. Similarly, I know all my neighbor landowners, and none have given permission, yet at times we literally have herds of them ripping up trails day and night. I have further seen many of them on snowmobile trails in Wild Forest areas of the Adirondack Park. In spite of the official ban on their use, they are everywhere. So what can be done?

#### A Suggestion for Remote Monitoring of ATV and Dirt-Bike Use

Common computer and communications technology exists that permits tracking of people, cars, trucks and other machines. Low cost Global Positioning Systems (GPS) are increasingly available for every sort of application. Many ATV operators already carry GPS locator technology to track where they are operating in remote areas of the Adirondack Park. These sorts of devices are also commonly used to track stolen vehicles. Similarly, persons who are out on parole are routinely given GPS bracelets so authorities always know their whereabouts. Truck companies use this technology to track their operators and vehicle movements. This is not "futurama;" this is just what is going on in other sectors of society.

Similar technology could be made into law regarding ATVs and dirt-bikes. Authorities could easily identify, at a distance, which ATV is running over a remote location. There would be no need for foolish and unsuccessful chases as operators head for home or cover.

Obviously ATVs could officially operate absent of such radio device if it is on the owner's property. There are farms and forests where ATVs serve a real work function, and/or are allowed for trail riding. Yet an amended ATV registration law might equate an ATV not having an approved radio tracer

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device as an unregistered vehicle subject to impoundment and removal from service if operating outside the owner's property. ATV operators with permission to operate on any given parcel could easily have that information linked to the radio receiver that informs authorities. ATVs with and without permission could then be known immediately.

Presently ATVs pay a NYS registration fee, but receive no land or trail access service for this fee. Snowmobilers get their fee turned into trail funds that help build and maintain snowmobile trail networks. The registration fee already paid by ATVs could be used to fund the radio tracer system,

*continued on page 18*




## What to do about ATV's (con't from page 17)

as well as include some designated areas where ATV and dirtbike use is legal.

Control of ATVs via satellite will not by itself achieve the result of keeping them from places where they are not allowed. An additional part of the ATV control system must be to provide a meaningful alternative to their present improper use. Some might suggest simply making them totally illegal, but that is not correct or practical. I recommend that besides the radio-tag system, NYS take action to provide some identified areas where ATVs can legally operate. Perhaps they offer huge gravel pits legal protection so all liability is removed, let them collect fees, and bring in the ATVs to interact only with each other and not the rest of the trail users.

Our communities lack regional trail systems for walking, skiing and (at least for me) riding the mountain bicycle. Yet trail developments that could increase the livability of the communities are often stymied by communities knowing that there will be no way to control bandit ATVs and dirt bike use. So we have no official trail system, only the unofficial ones that serve the ATVs. Things are indeed upside down in this respect. The only real trail system we have is for the class of user that officially has no legal trail access! So if we want any new trail systems we must first face the issue of ATVs.

A combination of required radio for all ATVs, coupled with opportunities for tightly controlled areas of allowed use is needed. What I have suggested below should be understood as only a concept suggestion. It needs considerable study and information from many quarters before it can be considered a complete and practical idea. NYS should fund a public policy institute study for the following purposes:

- Investigate the status and forecast of radio-tag identification and how they might apply this to the registration and enforcement of ATVs and dirt-bikes.
- Assess and suggest how selected locations for ATV and dirt-bike use should be made available to couple enforcement of land-use restrictions (theoretically in effect now) with respect to providing ATV users places to ride.
- The study report should make state-wide recommendations about the cost, feasibility, and operational implications for radio-based registration of ATVs and dirt-bikes in the form of a draft regulation for subsequent policy debate. 

*Richard Gibbs, Ph.D., P.E., is Director, Bureau of Mobile Sources, Division of Air resources at the NYS DEC.*

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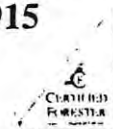
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# woodlot CALENDAR

## September 10&11, 1999

*Southern Adirondack Chapter:* Friday evening and Saturday morning, woods talk/walk, "Keep Tracking" – nationally renowned presentation on identifying animal tracks/activity in the forest. Friday evening talk and slide show to be held at the Glens Falls Library, and the Saturday morning tour to be held at a location to be determined. For more information contact John Hastings at (518) 798-0248.

## October 2, 1999

*Northern Adirondack Chapter:* Visit and Picnic at the ADK Visitor Interpretive Center at Paul Smiths, NY (Fall Woods walk). For more information contact Pat Ward at (315) 268-0902.

## October 3, 1999

*Capital District Chapter and Southern Adirondack Chapter:* 11 a.m. Tour the Wentorf's woodlot, Johnsonville, Rensselaer County. The Vermont Forest Woodland Owners will join our chapters as we tour post-tornado damage and view a harvesting and logging equipment demonstration. We will walk some trails along the Hoosic River and enjoy a bag lunch. For more information contact Rolf Wentorf at (518) 753-0228.

## October 4-5, 1999

15<sup>th</sup> Annual New York State Geographic Information Systems Conference at the Holiday Inn Turf, 205 Wolf Rd., Albany, NY. Fee is \$55 for conference registration by September 20<sup>th</sup> deadline. Call SUNY ESF Continuing Education at (315) 470-6891.

## October 9, 1999

NYFOA's Annual Fall Meeting sponsored by Western Finger Lakes chapter in Rochester. Contact Jack Hamilton at (716) 728-5769.

## December 11, 1999

*Capital District Chapter:* Pot luck dinner in the Colonie area. The holiday gathering will feature a raffle and a brief educational topic. For more information contact Mary Binder at (518) 797-3705.

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# LEISURE Logging

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PATRICK KELLY

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**T**his article is about one approach to one phase of woodlot management. It may sound familiar, low key and somewhat jocular. Yet, it is a brief glimpse of what the other fellow is doing (or trying to do) to improve a woodlot. Perhaps, in some small way, presenting a few ideas can help you solve the endless problem of removing undesirable dead and down trees. As Red Green says, "remember we are all in this together."

Bob Simkin and his wife, Thelma, reserved the woodlots on their farm when they sold it. The location is southern Cayuga county. We have been long time neighbors and friends of the Simkins. Helping one another has always been our way and working together in the woods is one of those ways. We both have had some experience with wood work. Bob planned to cut fuel wood from the lots for home heating as a retirement activity as long

as health permitted. Bob practiced "stewardship" long before it became today's popular designation. Removing the "weed trees" (down and dying timber) over the years produced desirable results — a woodlot that looks nice as well as productive.

This woodlot, consisting mainly of sugar maple, white ash, and basswood intermixed with black cherry, bitternut hickory, beech and yellow birch, has had three commercial harvests over a 40-year period, the last in 1993. In the mid-forties Bob set some conifers (white pine, Scotch pine and Norway spruce) on some highly erodible land adjacent to this all-hardwood (deciduous) lot. These woodlots supply the basis for our Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) leisure logging operations.

Low budget might be another designation. Perhaps you can think of some others . . . antique, anemic (low on iron).

The weather was so nice last fall Bob and I couldn't resist going down to the woods to do some cutting. We both had enough fuel wood for a year or more, but gosh, the weather was just so nice. You must realize we don't put in 10-hour days working in the woods. We are retired. Why not take advantage of it? We usually get started by 9 a.m. (that's early). Quit for dinner, notice I said dinner not lunch, about a quarter of 12. Our wives get fidgety if we are not sitting down at 12 sharp. A leisurely nooning, maybe a short nap. We head back to the woods around one. Sometimes we don't go back at all. We skip days, weeks, even months. For instance, the weekly grocery shopping trip to the city usually kills a whole day. It is not just hitting a supermarket and returning home. It is hitting three or four supermarkets. This is called coupon determination. Some where in between there is lunch. Of course, there are always other items to pick up. Perhaps some



*Dead Scotch Pine to the left of center. A skid trail leads between the two trees . . . notice little ground disturbance.*



*One of the log piles along side the skidway.*



bar oil and another yellow plastic wedge.

Usually, or maybe it is unusually, we put in a good three-hour afternoon in the woods, slacking off around four. This gives us some time to round up the tools and equipment and look around to see where we will start the next work. We mark a big X with a yellow lumber crayon on trees to be cut. Supper is at five in both houses. We don't linger in the woods. Besides at that hour it is starting to get dark no matter how nice the day. If it sounds to you that meal time controls our time on the job, you are absolutely correct. The news, the paper, "Wheel of Fortune," "Jeopardy." These pass in bits and pieces as the chin is on the chest a good deal of the time.

Between us we have enough equipment to satisfy most of our requirements. A couple of 16" chain saws, an old Ford tractor with winch, peavies, axes, sundry chain, a home-made wood splitter, a JD 620 with front loader, buzzsaw attachments, and wedges. Can't forget the wedges (although sometimes we do). Most of the foregoing were collected over a lifetime and range from antique to old modern. My axe is single bit, Bob's is double. I like the single bit for whacking the wedge. We don't chop much if we can help it. The only things really new are the yellow plastic wedges. We carry a yellow plastic wedge in a hip pocket most of the time, ready for use, the exception being when it is left on the last cut stump. Or worse, try

finding a yellow plastic wedge among fallen yellow leaves. "Where did I leave it?" is a frequent game.

Bob has a 4 x 4 pickup. He hot roads (cuts and hauls immediately) the wood up to the houses while I skid the cut trees to an open field for processing. The bulk of the hardwood is bucked into 16-inch fuel wood. Anything of sawlog quality is cut to 8-foot 14-inches or 10-foot 4-inches, pulled to one side and later added to the pile awaiting the sawmill. Bob sometimes reminisces about his team of horses back on the farm. No doubt we would be using a team if we had one handy. No use daydreaming, we have to settle for what we have. The little Ford is a close second to a team. It can't turn in a six-foot circle but can pass between two trees six feet apart without debarking either one.

The job is usually governed by the location of the down, dead, or dying trees. Once the cut is located, we spot a trail out to the main woods road. Some swamping may be necessary (remember we are anemic . . . low on iron) then we are ready to cut. We drop only the number of trees that can be skidded out in a work day. We try to directional fall, but more times than not that doesn't work out. The occasional bang up, we just hook the cable around the butt, pull it out a few feet. Down it comes, no strain, no danger. We have been boring the heart, via the notch,

before making the back cut. So far no barber chairing to which dead ash and hickory seem prone.

Most of the trees we cut this last fall were dead ash and hickory 8" to 14" Diameter at Breast Height (DBH). Why the die back on the ash and hickory? We have some guesses but don't really know. We worked this section two years ago doing the same thing. We trim up what there is to the top and cut the stem into manageable lengths, usually about sixteen feet. This makes more hook-up work but eliminates the stump rub of tree-length skidding, which allows for easier cornering. By using a two-wheel trailing arch, the forward ends of the logs are high off the ground so there is little gouging and reasonably clean logs. As I said previously, Bob keeps busy cutting up and hauling. I trim and skid. We work together on the falling. Four eyes are better than two at this job. Sometimes if the skidding gets caught up I help cut up.

Bob called a halt to the stove wood job when dumping space ran out. The nice weather held, so we moved over to the conifer planting. Again we are removing only wind-falls and dead trees. Seems we have had our fair share of damaging winds lately. For some reason there is some die back in the Scotch pine. Foresters told Bob the Scotch pine probably should not have been planted here. The white pine and

*continued on page 22*

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*Same skidway (as in previous photo) partly hauled.*



## Leisure Logging (con't from page 21)

spruce appear to be doing well. Some of the white pine with good crowns measure 15" DBH. Bob used some of the white pine in his daughter's new house.

With the softwood we set a limit of three or four on the ground at one time. This eliminates clutter and makes it easier to get around. After trimming and topping (we lop the tops) we pull these out full length, sometimes less than full length depending on the number of turns on our route. We skid not more than 100-150' to a convenient clear space. Here we buck them to 8' 4" down to a 5 or 6 inch top diameter. Yes, we save the pigs (random length top pieces after the logs have been cut out of the trunk). They are handy for skids and evaporator wood. We both make a little maple syrup. The logs that are not all that big and heavy are rolled on skids into a convenient pile (skidway). The front side of the pile faces downgrade. The piled logs make a good place to sit while you catch your breath savoring the brisk air and wooded environment.

December, (we keep out of the woods during deer season) can you believe it, warm and nice just like October. We worked up a few piles of the pine as weather and time

permitted. The Thanksgiving-Christmas holiday season of course placed increased demands on the time schedule. Senior's activities, visiting relatives, relatives visiting you, the usual interferences to our woods work. Probably a good thing; keeps us from going stale on the woods work. Diversification. Can't overlook the craft fairs; Mary (my wife) and I sell items made of wood. November and December are a hectic time for the craft business. Naturally, the wood comes from some of the trees we cut. Bob is busy in his shop on inclement days. His rocking footstool is a gem.

Christmas passed quietly but the New Year arrived with a vengeance. We had our cold and snow. Great hauling weather. We use a "scoot." It is low and easy to roll the logs on and off. The old JD crawler handles a sled load of eight footers through the eighteen-inch snow with little effort. The haul, a mile and a half round trip, travels up to my back lot to a pile awaiting the sawmill. Twenty-first of January, 40 degrees and rising, lowering clouds, south wind, the last load dumped. The job is in.

We have an inkling our leisure logging may incorporate more management goals than TSI. Does recreation pass through your mind? We thoroughly enjoy our "leisure logging." Coincidentally, Bob is eighty, I'm the youngster at seventy-four. ▲

*Pat Kelly resides in Venice Center, NY. This is his first (but hopefully not his last) article in The New York Forest Owner.*

## MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Materials submitted for the November/December issue should be sent to Mary Beth Malmshemer, Editor, *The New York Forest Owner*, 134 Lincklaen Street, Cazenovia, NY 13035 or via e-mail at [mmalmshe@syr.edu](mailto:mmalmshe@syr.edu) Article, artwork and photos are invited and if requested, are returned after use.



**Deadline for material is October 1, 1999.**



*Scoot load of eight footers.*

### NYFOA Scholarship Fund

As of June 1999, the NYFOA Endowed Scholarship Fund that is administered by the SUNY ESF College Foundation, Inc. has a fund balance of \$18,116.



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*View from the master bedroom.*

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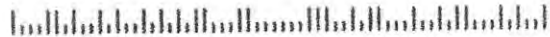


# The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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134 Lincklaen Street  
Cazenovia, NY 13035

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