

The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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**THE NEW YORK
FOREST OWNERS
ASSOCIATION**

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**The New York
Forest Owner**

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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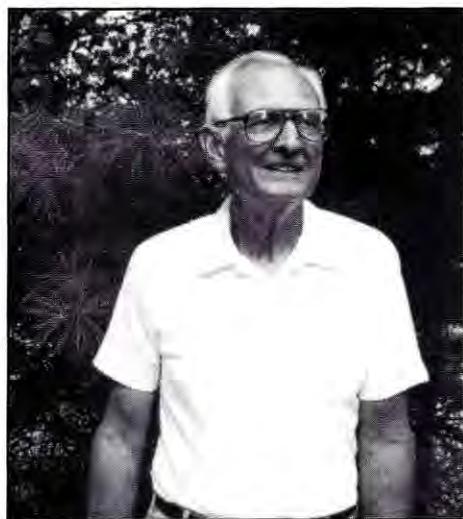
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COVER: West Branch of the Neversink River. Town of Denning, Ulster County. Photo courtesy of the Watershed Forestry Program, Walton, New York.

From The President

We had a treat last week driving through the Charlotte Valley to Henry Kernan's home.

There were a couple of inches of new snow, and typical of early December, it was the wet stuff that sticks to the trees. It was gorgeous, and I thought that while there is only one "first snow" per year quite like that, there is one every year, just as uniquely beautiful as though being experienced for the first time. A natural wonder to be sure, and perhaps worth remembering, since snow may be having a different impression on us when these words appear in print.



Two upcoming dates are of particular importance to all of us in NYFOA – please put them on your calendar and invite a friend:

NYFOA's spring program and annual meeting is on March 18th – check out the agenda later in this issue. Jim Minor and Betty Wagner have planned an excellent program for us, taking into account meeting evaluation comments in recent years with respect to making the trip worthwhile by having a full day, a variety of topics, tightening up the time spent on lunch and speeches, but continuing the silent auction and breaks for socializing. I hope every chapter will promote

invitations to friends and car pooling so that a record number can enjoy the camaraderie and the contributions of those who take the time to develop presentations for us.

Less than a month later, April 15th will also be a big day for NYFOA—this time helping to make Cornell Cooperative Extension's satellite video-conference on the economics of forest stewardship a huge success. The program is to be presented in a number of County Extension offices throughout the state on the morning of April 15th, and in some cases taped for a later presentation. NYFOA has been asked to help arrange afternoon programs in the field which will complement the morning teleconference.

With our experience with woodwalks of every kind, this is a challenge we can easily accept, and even as I write, early preparations are underway in some areas. This is a wonderful outreach opportunity for NYFOA members to make contact with others who are also interested in various aspects of woodlot stewardship. Since the several county area covered by most NYFOA chapters is likely to have more than one program, it will take extra effort from a number of members to make the day a full success. I would encourage all members to pitch in and do what they can to help. Jerry Michael, Southern Tier Chapter, has agreed to help relay information and planning notes to and from the chapters as programs and plans develop. Thanks Jerry!

Give your county extension office a call today — let the folks know that all aspects of managing and enjoying the benefits of private forest ownership are important to you, as well as to the county's economy and environment. If you don't tell them, who will?

— 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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In The MAIL



Monitoring Private Foresters

I would like to address Mr. Martin from Germany. I sincerely hope that this country's ideals set forth by our founding fathers has not eroded to the point that everybody has to be "monitored." If a person or persons is not supplying goods & services to the satisfaction of the consumer, that person or persons business will not survive the marketplace without losses. The only place this does not hold true is within the realm of government employment. Possibly we need to "monitor" our government employees, as we have no vehicle for remedial action towards them. They set the rules, set the penalties, enforce the rules and determine the verdicts. They are untouchable; you cannot remove them through the ballot box. I certainly do not want a chosen few going around making lists of good people and bad people. That's been done before. Maybe we need a master plan or a master race or master monitors now there's a master solution.

- Benjamin Haad
Buffalo, NY

Private Sector Foresters

In reading the November/December issue of *The New York Forest Owner*, I see that this publication continues to be a forum for discussion about the role of and landowner benefit that private sector foresters can provide the nonindustrial private forest landowner.

Mr. James Martin, in his letter to the editor, raises several questions concerning services provided by private foresters and "quality control" associated with such services.

As a basis to any discussion on this subject, one should understand that there does not currently exist, professional licensing or registration in New York of qualified individuals trained in the forestry profession. Therefore, there is no professional review or other effort of a regulatory nature, governing the activities of those representing themselves as foresters under a professional licensing or registration program.

The Department of Environmental Conservation sponsors a voluntary Cooperating Forester Program, designed to complement forestry assistance services provided by the agency. My letter printed in the July/August issue speaks to this subject at length.

The program establishes a system for referrals of landowners in need of assistance to a directory of foresters who have voluntarily entered into an agreement with DEC to furnish assistance per provisions of program policy. Not all foresters in the private sector participate in the program and responsibilities under it apply only to those properties and landowners referred by DEC. A process is established where DEC reviews work done by Cooperating Foresters to insure that services provided are within the framework of the program. This process starts with contact with the landowner to determine his or her level of satisfaction. Additionally, the Department is obligated to investigate complaints that are made in writing by landowners who have been referred to a Cooperating Forester and have experienced a significant problem.

The intent of both the review process and complaint investigation is to determine if a problem exists and offer a solution to correct it. The DEC Regional Forester has a primary role in developing resolutions at the local level to mediate conflicts and to influence future behavior. Principals involved will be interviewed, sites where forestry work has been done may be

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inspected and documents developed may be reviewed in this process. Opportunities to sit down and develop mutually acceptable solutions are afforded.

If a resolution to the problem can not be developed at the regional level, a process is established which involves representation by the program partners — the Department, NY Institute of Consulting Foresters, NY Association of Consulting Foresters, Empire State Forest Products Association as well as the US Forest Service, to review the matter and recommend corrective action to the Director of the Division of Lands and Forests for consideration. The canceling of a cooperative agreement with a private forester, a decision made by the Director of Lands and Forests, is an option available in this process which results in removal of that person from the directory of Cooperating Foresters.

Expanding the availability of professional assistance, of appropriate quality to meet landowner needs, is a desired outcome. It is recognized that periodic evaluation of activities is needed to insure that program objectives are being met and that action be taken to correct problems encountered. Program policy and procedures are established to accomplish this.

Other elements of the Cooperating Forester Program require the acquisition of continuing forestry education credits by participants. Numerous silvicultural and land management reference materials have been provided to Cooperating Foresters by the Department. Annual meetings are

obligatory which provide a forum for exchange of information and discussion of issues, including the quality of services provided on referred properties. Adherence to the Society of American Foresters Code of Ethics is expected regardless of membership in that professional society. These requirements help insure that appropriate professional services are rendered on referred properties.

Landowners seeking services from private foresters also have responsibility. Soliciting quotes from several foresters rather than dealing with only one individual, obtaining and checking references, reviewing affiliation with professional organizations and probably most important, specifying in detail the service being sought, can help to promote a satisfactory experience working with a private forester. If a Forest Stewardship Plan has been developed for the property, perhaps by a DEC service forester, that details

landowner goals and management activities recommended, this document can serve as a basis in discussions with a private forester to prevent any misunderstanding as to exactly what the landowner expects in terms of service and outcome from management activities.

No matter how well conceived a program is, or how well individuals function in it, problems will occur from time to time. The Cooperating Forester Program is no exception, it has safeguards and procedures established in it to deal with occurrences highlighted by Mr. Martin's correspondence. Thank you for the opportunity to respond to Mr. Martin's concerns and to share this information with your readers and members of NYFOA.

—Frank Dunstan, Director
Division of Lands and Forests
NYS DEC

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Another Great Year

for the MFO/Coverts Program

GARY R. GOFF

A significant milestone was reached in the summer of '98 (our last reporting year), when a Master Forest Owner* (MFO) volunteer completed the 1,000th documented visit to a forest owner since the start of the program in 1991. With an average of 62 acres per visited owner, that means over 62,000 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 240 volunteers who have been certified through the program over the years. As of this year, there are 137 active volunteers from 45 NYS counties.

The mission of the MFO/COVERTS Program is to provide private, non-industrial forest owners of NYS with the information and

encouragement necessary to manage their forest holdings wisely. The top three reasons (in order) forest owners give for owning their holdings are: 1) recreation, 2) wildlife, and 3) privacy. The volunteers help forest owners based on their years of experience owning and managing forest land and the information learned at the 4-day training workshop hosted annually at Cornell University's Arnot Forest. Typically, volunteers arrange a half-day visit with a neighbor, friend, relative or referral at their woodlot. Volunteers are not professional foresters so their advice is limited to encouragement on setting realistic management objectives and suggestions on where to find more information or needed services. MFO volunteers often report back that forest owners truly appreciate knowing where to start the management process. The many issues involved in forest ownership

can appear rather daunting to new and inexperienced owners!

Volunteers also work within their communities on hundreds of forestry-related educational activities and events. In 1998, 51 volunteers reported 351 activities that reached an estimated audience of 32,890! Many of these "contacts" are based on readership of various newsletters and magazines, but thousands of people are more directly contacted via woodswalks, 4-H clubs, school presentations, and educational workshops hosted by Cooperative Extension, NYS DEC and NYFOA in counties throughout the state. An example of a great effort coordinated by Al Brown and other volunteers in Chautauqua County is the annual "Forest Stewardship" supplement printed by The Jamestown "Post-Journal." This year's edition contained 9 articles and activities written mostly by volunteers from western NY. Yet another good example of

* 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.

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This year's Northern Refresher was hosted by Lew Staats at the Uihlein Maple Research and Extension Field Station in Lake Placid where volunteers learned about "sweet tree" research.



Jack McShane hosted the Eastern Refresher workshop where we observed the impact deer have on regeneration as evidenced by the profuse aspen sprouts inside the deer enclosure.

outreach activities by volunteers is when 4 MFOs gave testimony at the USDA Private Land Conservation Forum held in Syracuse this fall.

Refresher Workshops

Three regional (Eastern, Western, and Northern) workshops are held annually to bring certified volunteers together for a day-long refresher training. We typically have a few speakers on current local issues in the morning and then go to a field site in the afternoon. This year a total of about 70 volunteers attended the three workshops. MFO Jack McShane hosted the Eastern workshop in Delaware County. We received an update on activities and programs for forest owners as part of the NY City Watershed Program administered by the Watershed Agriculture Council (WAC) in the morning and then toured Jack's beautiful home and woods. If you know Jack, wildlife is his primary objective and he has accomplished dozens of habitat improvement projects including ponds, food plots, apple tree plantings, old field reclamation, nest boxes, stand thinnings, and use of tree tubes.

The Northern refresher was hosted by Lewis Staats, Sr. Extension Associate, at Cornell's Uihlein Sugar Maple Research and Extension Field Station in Lake Placid. In the morning we heard from two local maple producers who

were severely impacted by the '98 ice storm. In the afternoon we toured Lew's greenhouse and plantation where he is working on selection and propagation of genetically "sweet trees." Special thanks are due Peter Smallidge who acquired funding from the USDA Ice Storm Recovery Project to cover the costs of the Northern refresher. Pete also gave a presentation at each of the workshops.

The Western refresher was hosted by MFO Rick White at the newly established "Pfeiffer Nature Center" in Portville. The morning program covered the topics of hardwood regeneration and old growth. In the afternoon we toured the Nature Center where Rick is the Exec. Director. The site is both beautiful and unique with a historic American Chestnut cabin and old-growth stands of hemlock/white pine and red oak. Rick is very interested in establishing a demonstration forest in a portion of the Center's second-growth mixed hardwood stand.

New in '99

We tried a couple new things for the '99 program year. A chronic suggestion by attendees of the new volunteer trainings, is to lengthen the program's duration. This year we added a day to the overall program, but added very new material. The results were very favorable with the

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1999 MFO & NYFOA Members

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 William Burke, Sr.
 Peter Cann
 Kevin Crosier
 Carl Davis III
 Adria Diel
 Roy Esiason
 Eamon Ferguson
 Rita Hammond
 Jeffrey Kehoe
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 Patricia Ward
 Rolf Wentorf
 Chuck Winship

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 Association.



"Class of 1999" Master Forest Owners.

Another Great Year (Con't from page 7)

largest class ever (38 volunteers) making the commitment and nearly universal agreement that the program was not overly rushed. Upon completion of the training, the volunteers rated their ability to accomplish the goals of the MFO program 4.3 on a 5-point scale. The 2000 workshop will be held at the Arnot Forest, Wednesday evening Sept. 13th until noon on Sunday the 17th.

Another effort made this year was to conduct two "focus group" meetings in northern NY with the goal of identifying what could be done to generate greater participation and activity in the program. There are only 10 volunteers in the 9 northern counties; 4 counties have no volunteers. Programs such as MFO/COVERTS build best on their successes. It is difficult to build many success stories with such a thinly stretched corps of volunteers. There will be a concerted effort to recruit more volunteers through interaction with all organizations and agencies to solicit new volunteers. Referrals from such organizations are important sources of forest owner "clients" and from which to receive new candidate names. Provided there is enough interest, Peter and I will

organize a new volunteer training in the Adirondacks in the fall of 2000. If the focus group approach works well in the Adirondacks, we will likely use it elsewhere in regions where the program could use some bolstering!

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 and a program flyer are available at all NYS DEC regional offices, Cornell Cooperative Extension County Association 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. 

Gary R. Goff is MFO/COVERTS Program Director and Extension Associate at Cornell University.



Hurricane Hugo forced the Tree Identification exercise inside at the '99 MFO volunteer training.



Arnot Forest Manager, Don Schaufler, addressing the '99 MFO trainees on timber sales at Cornell University's Arnot Forest.

Passage

Now the year has slipped away,
The challenge of another in its wake;
There are those who welcome the
turning,
And some open wide memory's gate.

Many dream by winter's gleam of fire
As though to mourn summer's fevered
glow;
Some gaze through the frost of
windows,
Glad there is nowhere they must go.

The young challenge winter's decrees,
Bundled against elements of ice and
snow
As life weaves its magical journey
And pause all life in its magical flow.

I see the children pass by each day,
Red of cheek and bright of eye,
And though elderly I now may be
Their youth is reflected in my sigh.

C'est bien!

—Dorothy Darling
Odessa, NY

HARD WOOD

JACK A. WARD

Well, I found out why they call hardwood lumber “hard wood,” especially when it is made into chairs.

On September 15th I accompanied my wife Pat to the Master Forest Owner Training School at Cornell University’s Arnot Forest. I could not become a Master Forest Owner as I am in the industry, but they did allow me to attend as a nonperson.

We had to arrive at 2 pm on Wednesday and they owned us until noon on Sunday. Breakfast was served at 7am and the training ended at 9pm each day. We had a 10-minute break mid-morning and mid-afternoon whether we needed them or not. This is when I became aware of “hard wood.” All meals were served right at the same facility and everyone but my wife and I stayed in cabins at the Forest. I think this was to keep escapees to a minimum.

The cabins were unheated, but most had screens in the windows. There was a heated restroom and shower facility that was well maintained. I had read in the fine print on the registration information that if you were really a wimp, you could stay at a motel down the road. Knowing that frost and cold weather can come in September and Hurricane Floyd was already promising heavy rains, I swallowed my pride and we accepted the “wimp” designation. Since our motel room had a TV with news and weather reports and no one else had access to the outside world, we were very popular first thing in the morning and no one actually called us “wimps.”

The program was led by Gary Goff, Program Director of the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell and in a former life, I’m sure, an army drill sergeant. Peter Smallidge who heads the Cornell University Extension Forestry Program assisted Gary.

During the deluge of rain from Hurricane Floyd on Thursday, Peter went out and gathered leaves and branches for us to study as part of our tree identification. I think he might be afraid of Gary also.

Mornings were spent inside with speakers and classes on subjects as diverse as agroforestry opportunities, sawtimber economics, using your county soil maps, finding boundaries, stream-side management, timber management and how to identify, provide and enhance habitat for small game, game birds and songbirds. I even learned that worms are as bad for my forest as they are for my dog.

The afternoons were spent mostly in the field with visits to different parts of the Arnot Forest for tree identification, saw timber management, finding property boundaries, and a visit to a large sawmill to see how scaling and grading of logs is done (I wish my logs would be scaled and graded that liberally but I guess there might have been some pressure on them with our large group looking on).

The evenings were spent with more classroom work and one night they even planned an “owl walk;” but most of us were pretty tired from the days events and after a bit of group snacking, headed back to the cabins for some much-needed rest.

Sunday morning we actually got to sleep an extra half hour and after a big breakfast we approached the final half-day of training with great zest. Sunday noon arrived before we knew it and we left for home with our heads brimming over with newly-gained knowledge, my wife with her Master Forest Owner

Certificate and lots of memories of the event and the many new friends that we had made.

There are presently over 100 MFO’s across the state. As forest owners we should get to know them if we don’t already. Your local Cooperative Extension and DEC offices have a listing of MFOs in your area. Why not try to coordinate some of your chapter activities with them since we both have the same goal of promoting stewardship of private forests? I would highly recommend this program to anyone with the interest and the time to do it. I can personally guarantee that at the end of the training you will truly know the meaning of “hardwood.” ▲

Jack Ward lives in Potsdam, NY and is a member of NYFOA.

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Along the Finger Lakes Trail: An Unplanned Article

IRENE SZABO

Background: My series on landowners along the Finger Lakes Trail who love their places and are generous enough to share them last featured George Fraley, volunteer DEC fire warden from southern Ontario County, who has built and maintains a switchback trail and campground below the Wildlife Management Area at Hi Tor. My very first article lavished appreciation on Bill and Ellen Garrison from Steuben County, between Prattsburgh and Hammondsport, who have given a permanent trail easement to the Finger Lakes Trail AND built the best-appointed and most welcoming shelter in our whole 800-mile trail system on their property.

Just after dawn on December 4th ol' fire-fighter George Fraley called me with grim news heard on his constantly-crackling Disaster-Radio that some shelter on the Finger Lakes Trail near Bean Station Road had burned down. So Ellen Garrison was flabbergasted when she called a half-hour later

and I already knew the horrid news. So much for serendipity; the rest of the day was no fun.

Hunters climbing the Garrisons' hill on the trail to get to the Urbana State Forest above found the still-hot remains in early morning darkness. Before noon, while the county arson investigator and state police combed the site uphill, a mother from down the road arrived with her tearful teenage son at the Garrisons' house. Two local boys had cooked themselves dinner the night before in the masonry fireplace in front of the three-sided shelter. They were sure they'd put the fire out, even had brought water for the task. They left before dark, leaving behind a can of liquid fire-starter.

This three-sided log shelter was big enough for six bunks inside, a small kitchen table, cupboards on the walls filled with amenities and staples that the Garrisons generously provided. A low roof extended in front to cover the cook's approach to the fireplace, a gift of masonry work from a local teacher, and the roof was lined beneath with sheet metal to prevent accidental flying spark ignition. Inside was a handsomely routed wooden sign with a verse from Evangeline, surrounded by the painted names of the Americorps kids who worked a few days on this huge year-long undertaking. Untold hours of work was done by Prattsburgh Boy Scouts, FLT volunteers, local friends, three generations of Garrison family members, and those federally-funded helpers, the young adults from across the nation that Americorps supplied the trail organization one summer only a few short years ago.

Unfortunately the life span of the Evangeline shelter was abysmally short. Only three years ago it was opened for hikers' use in October but it was almost constantly occupied since then, in any season. Just this last fall I was descending the hill from a day of trail work and found a young sixty-ish couple inside with their grandchildren, staying overnight in the midst of a memorable backpacking adventure for the four of them.

*"This is the forest primeval.
The murmuring pines and the
hemlocks, Bearded with
moss, and in garments green,
indistinct in the twilight,
Stand like Druids of eld, with
voices sad and prophetic..."*

-Evangeline Verse

Of this tall log structure there now remains only a flat bed of black coals, two slender blackened remnants of logs with 12" spikes through them, a warped griddle from the fireplace, and the scorched metal tubular legs from the kitchen table. Hemlocks 12 and 20 feet away, big ones 14" and 16" dbh, are badly charred on one side, even though it rained the night the shelter burned. Those burnt trees all face what was the open side of the shelter, and a picnic table even further away had only its facing edges on fire, not the rest of the table top or benches in that rain. To my untutored eye, this damage bespeaks a fireball from inside the

continued on page 11

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shelter, fueled, I imagine, by a can of fire starter.

Parents, teach your children well. Woodcraft, fire-building, and camp-fire safety are things many of us learned years ago, but how often do we leave the passing of those lessons to others, such as Scout leaders and teachers? Fire is unendurably fascinating to many kids. Mother hid forever from my father that one of my brothers nearly burned down the garage by igniting the hedge behind it. I myself exercised my own milder pyromaniacal tendencies on Girl Scout campfires, insisting on building all cookfires for our troop campouts no matter how heinous the weather.

Foresters jest that New York has "asbestos woods," but if this fire had started last August, 3000 acres with a lot of red, white, black, and chestnut oak could have become ashes, too. The second-best stand of American chestnut I've run across is up that hill, too, plus some unusual tupelo and black spruce. A few nice "camps" have also been built on private land surrounding the state forest. Parents, teach your children well.

Most astounding to me is that Bill Garrison, who had a debilitating stroke only six weeks before this and is recovering speech and mobility at a great rate with typical determination and teeth-gritting zest, was already planning by the afternoon of December 4th how we could together find a way to rebuild the Evangeline shelter. 🌲

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.

City in a Forest

MARK KEISTER

The Western Finger Lakes Chapter played host to this fall's state NYFOA meeting. Urban Forestry was highlighted at this year's meeting in Rochester. The Rochester area has a long history of recognizing the benefits of trees in urban areas dating back to early tree planting in the 1830s.

Joe Bernal, Monroe County forester, and Richard Cook of Cook's Landscaping were featured guides of the daytime program tour of two of the area's premier parks, Highland and Durand-Eastman. These parks were designed by the architect Frederick Law Olmsted, around the turn of the century. His knowledge of plant materials and creativity, combined with a climate moderated by Lake Ontario, provided the basis for some truly unique parks. Joe Bernal demonstrated some of the equipment needed to care for the plantings in the parks, and his slides showed the challenges in managing older trees which have been subject to two major storms within the last ten years, the ice-storm of 1991 and a micro burst in 1996. Richard Cook, a volunteer with the county parks department, provided a crash course in horticultural tree and shrub identification. Many of the species were very rare in New York.

City of Rochester forester Andy Pleninger was the evening's program

speaker. Andy focused on the City of Rochester's street tree program. Since the 1830s, the city's program has evolved into a comprehensive management system using computer technology to inventory every tree in the city (60,000 street trees and 12,000 trees in parks and public cemeteries). An aerial view reveals Charles Sprague Sargent's quote "Rochester is a city in a forest." Mr. Sargent was the founder of Harvard's Arnold Arboretum.

Every forest has its enemies and a city forest is no exception. Rochester's spreading elm's succumbed to Dutch Elm Disease in the 1960s. The 1991 ice storm badly damaged many of the green ash in the city, many of which had to be removed. These occurrences stressed the need to avoid monocultures, even in urban plantings. The city now plants 60 different species of trees, and strives to plant no more than 10% of any single species on a street. Species selection is based on the planting site conditions and the desired aesthetic effect. Public input is encouraged in the planning process. Rochester plants an average of 1000 trees per year but Andy stresses the need to provide follow up care and maintenance at least every seven years.

Andy points out that Rochester is just one community. Nearly all residential communities in New York have urban trees. Many small villages and towns have limited expertise and budgets to care for these trees. It is especially important for residents to become advocates for the care and management of them. Trees add a great deal to the community's quality of life, and are often taken for granted. 🌲

Mark Keister is a member of the WFL chapter of NYFOA and editor of its chapter newsletter. This article originally appeared in the October issue of the WFL Chapter newsletter.

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General Director Candidates

Hugh Canham

Hugh Canham currently is Professor of Forest and Resource Economics at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. He has done extensive research and teaching about New York Forestry, especially concerning the economic impact of forests and the wood-using industry. He is a forest owner and active in the Society of American Foresters. He also serves as a member of the Town of Salina Zoning Board of Appeals.

Roy Esiason

Roy Esiason became a Washington County independent forest owner in 1967. As a forest owner he constructed two ponds, planted DEC environmental packets, and developed small Christmas Tree, Black Locust and Red Pine plantations. He operated a feed/supply store and kennel in Granville for 17 years and raised and bred Newfoundland dogs since the mid sixties. Ray served as Granville town supervisor for 4 years. He worked with DEC Sr. Forester Ron Cadieux on 4 SIP projects of thinning trees, pruning wild apple trees, and developing a one mile recreation trail. Roy attended the 1999 Master Forest Owner/Coverts program at Cornell University's Arnot Forest. While Chairman of the Environmental Committee an Arbor Day program was established that included distribution of 1,600 tree seedlings to elementary school children each year for the past 12 years.

Jerry Michael

After retiring from a career in Human Resources Management with IBM, Jerry Michael has pursued his avocation in forestry on a more-or-less full time basis. He manages his 40 acre family Tree Farm in Broome County and 1650 forested acres in Delaware County owned by his hunting club. He has worked closely with DEC and consulting foresters for the 20 years the club property has been enrolled in the 480A Forest Tax Law program, and has been heavily involved in planning TSI work and numerous harvests. Jerry has been an active Master Forest Owner volunteer since 1995 and helps staff the Horticultural Hotline at Cornell Cooperative Extension in Broome County. He has served as Secretary/Treasurer for the NYFOA Southern Tier Chapter for several years and served on the NYFOA State By Laws Revision Committee in 1998 and 1999. One of Jerry's top priorities is to promote continuing research and forest owner education on the subject of regenerating our hardwood resources.

Ron Pedersen

Ron is a candidate for a second three-year term as a Director. He is a charter member of NYFOA and helped found the Capital District Chapter. The Board of Directors elected Ron NYFOA President last spring. In addition to NYFOA, activity on behalf of private forest owners since his retirement from State government in December 1994 includes timber theft prevention and enforcement, and membership on NY's Sustainable Forestry Implementation Committee and on the National Forum on Sustainable Forestry. Ron is a 1993 Master Forest Owner. He and his wife Peggy own a tree farm in Broome County and were named New York's Outstanding Tree Farmers in 1998.

DETACH AND COMPLETE

MAIL BEFORE MARCH 4, 2000

Election Form

VOTE FOR FOUR (4) CANDIDATES

Hugh Canham () Roy Esiason () Jerry Michael () Ron Pedersen ()

Name(s) _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Chapter / Affiliation _____

Send registration to: Debbie Gill
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Fairport, NY 14450



New York Forest Owners Association

38th Annual Spring Program



Joined by members of the New York Tree Farm System

Saturday, March 18, 2000

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

- 8:15 **Registration and Coffee/Tea/Soda/Danish/Donuts.** Check out silent auction items and place your bids
- 9:00 **Welcome** - Ron Pedersen, President, New York Forest Owners Association
- 9:05 **Timber Harvesting in New York** - Ralph Nyland, Distinguished Service Professor, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY
- 10:00 **Strategies to Effectively Regenerate Hardwood Forests** - Peter Smallidge, New York State Extension Forester
- 10:50 **Break**
- 11:00 **Effectively Communicating with Your Forester: The Three Ring Model** - James Finley, Associate Professor of Forestry at Pennsylvania State University, Pennsylvania State Extension Forester
- 12:00 **Lunch** (provided) - Nifkin Student Lounge. Update silent auction bids
- 12:40 **Awards** - Robert Sand, NYFOA and Charlotte Baxter, Tree Farm
- 1:00 **Continue Silent Auction.** Final bids at 1:10!
- 1:15 **Overview of his new book "Trees of New York State"** - Don Leopold, Distinguished Teaching Professor of Environmental and Forest Biology, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY
- 1:45 **Recovery of New York Bald Eagle Population** - Mike Allen, Wildlife Technician DEC Region 8
- 3:15 **Silent Auction Results** - Rod Jones, Private Consulting Forester
- 3:30 **Adjourn Spring Program**
- 3:35 **NYFOA Business Meeting**
- 4:00 **Adjourn NYFOA Business Meeting**

DETACH AND COMPLETE

MAIL BEFORE MARCH 4, 2000

Registration Form, NYFOA 38th Annual Spring Program

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Wood-Destroying Insects: The Powder Post Beetles

DOUGLAS C. ALLEN

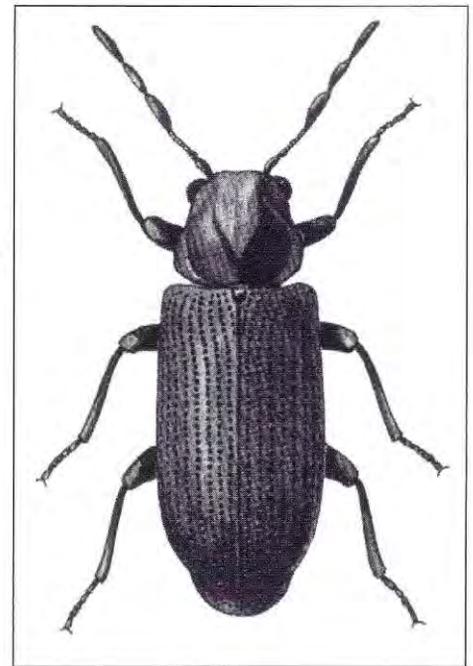


Figure 2 Top view of an anobiid or furniture beetle adult.

is viewed from the top (Fig. 2), its head is entirely hidden by the hood-like second body segment (Fig. 3). Many members of this group are found outdoors in seasoned wood such as fence posts or dead, but still solid, parts of trees that have been damaged by a skidder, ice or wind. Other species are pests of dried vegetable products such as cereals and tobacco. The latter are known by common names like "drugstore beetle," "cigarette beetle" and "deathwatch beetle."

The white, humpbacked, grub-like larvae (Fig. 4) may be as much as 0.5" long or shorter than 0.1" and have well developed legs. The wood-inhabiting members of this family feed on seasoned sapwood of both conifers (needle-bearing trees) and hardwoods (broad-

It is very likely that at one time or another many forest owners have seen evidence of powder-post beetle damage in the timbers of old barns, camps, outbuildings, or in stored furniture or other items built of untreated, seasoned wood. Recognition and proper identification of these tiny insects is necessary to understand why this wood-in-service was susceptible to attack.

Termites and beetles comprise the major insect groups capable of destroying seasoned wood. In this article, I will discuss two of the more common families of powder-post beetles, so called because in the course of feeding they reduce wood to a very fine dust or powder. When the grubs complete development they transform into adults

that emerge from infested material leaving behind tiny, round holes on the surface of the wood, called "shot-holes" or "pin holes" (Fig. 1).

Seasoned wood is a precarious habitat where it is difficult for an insect to make a living. It is a very dry, compact environment. Generally, any moisture that is present is chemically bound and is only available to the insect when the wood is digested. The compactness of this material means relatively little wood is digested, and energy gained in digestion is small relative to the energy expended to consume the wood. Additionally, seasoned wood contains very little available nitrogen, a necessary source of protein for insect growth and development.

Anobiids or Furniture Beetles

These beetles belong to the family Anobiidae (an-no-bee-i-dee). Adults are 0.1" to 0.3" long, cylindrical and reddish to dark brown. When the beetle

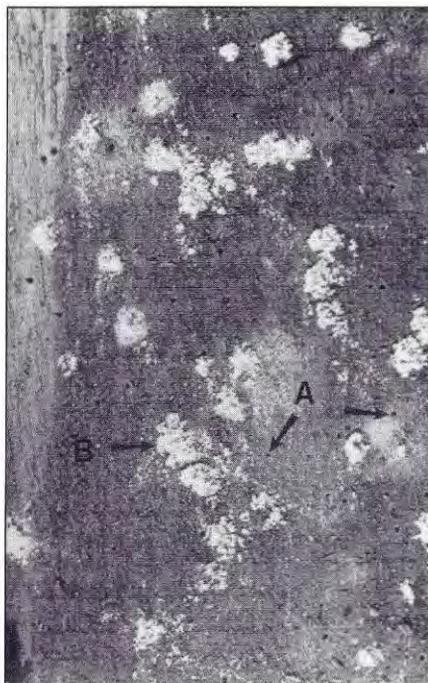


Figure 1 Close-up of powder-post beetle exit holes (A) and frass (B).

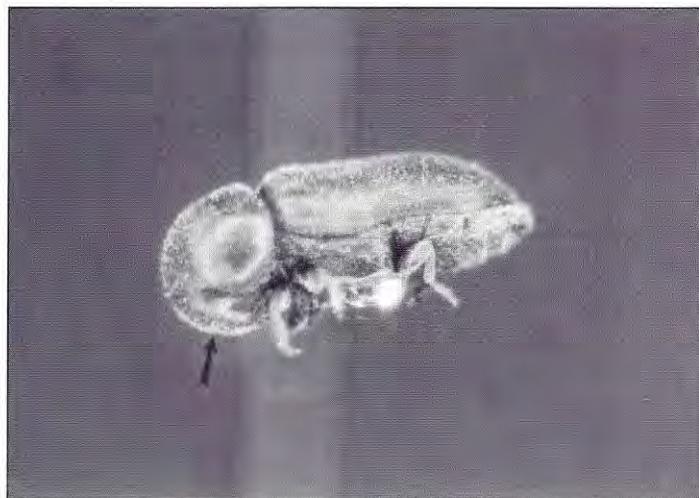


Figure 3 Side view of an anobiid. Note how the head (arrow) is tucked underneath the body.



Figure 4 Powder-post beetle larvae.

leaved trees). Infested wood is honey-combed with tunnels filled with loosely packed whitish powder called frass. The latter is composed of very fine particles of undigested wood and fecal pellets. Frass often accumulates beneath infested material or on the surface of the wood below exit holes (Fig. 1). Unlike most other groups of wood borers, anobiids are able to digest cellulose with the aid of yeast cells found in their digestive tracts. Woodborers without this ability utilize only the cell contents (starch) for nutrition. For successful development, infested material must have a moisture content of 13-30%.

Lyctids or true powder-post beetles occur in the family Lyctidae (lick-ted-dee). Adults are 0.05" to 0.25" long, elongate, narrow and slightly flattened. When the reddish-brown to black beetles are viewed from the top their head is clearly visible (Fig. 5).

To an untrained eye, the grub-like larva looks very similar to that of an anobiid (an-o-bee-id). Lyctids rarely are longer than 0.25", however, and their legs are not as well developed. Wood may be infested for many years

before the problem becomes evident. By this time, the material is riddled with galleries that are packed with very fine wood dust, almost the consistency of flour or talcum powder (Fig. 6). This dust eventually accumulates on and beneath infested material. Lyctids feed on the seasoned or partially seasoned sapwood of hardwoods. Wood with a moisture content less than 8% apparently is immune to attack and a moisture content of around 15% is near optimum.

Susceptibility of Wood Products

The susceptibility of wood products varies with type of wood (species, heartwood or sapwood) and moisture content, as mentioned above. Another important feature, which leads to an effective nonchemical approach for managing these pests of wood-in-service, is the fact that both species require openings in the wood for laying eggs. Anobiids utilize cracks in wood, joints that are not tight, openings beneath splinters, or old emergence holes to deposit eggs. Lyctids also may take advantage of cracks and splinters but most often they seek the ends of exposed cells or wood pores, such as those found on the transverse surface or end of a log or board. Members of both families are able to re-infest suitable material.

Managing these pests

To manage these pests first entails an ability to recognize damage, to identify the extent of an infestation and to determine whether the infestation is active. Wood products in very dry environments or locations where humidity is greater than 30% are generally free of powder-post

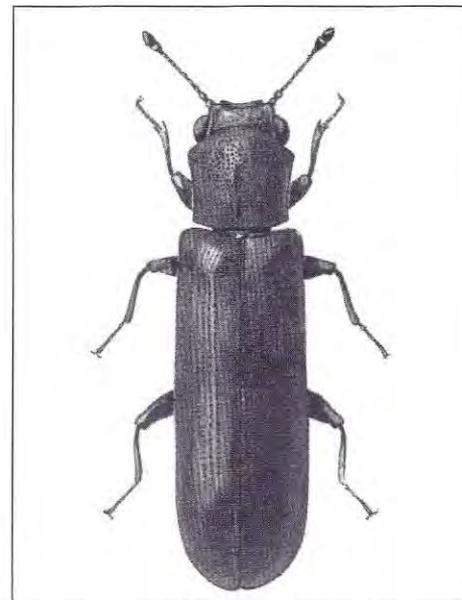


Figure 5 Top view of a typical lyctid or true powder-post beetle adult.

beetles. The fact that females require openings for egg-laying means that treating with paint, varnish, stain, or oil to fill cracks and openings will prevent attack (the beetles will not lay eggs on smooth surfaces). For active infestations, repeated application of certain contact insecticides or fumigants may be necessary to eliminate the problem. ▲

This is the 48th 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/dlf/privland/forprot/health/nyfo/index.html>. Photographs 1,4 and 6 courtesy of Dr. John B. Simeone.

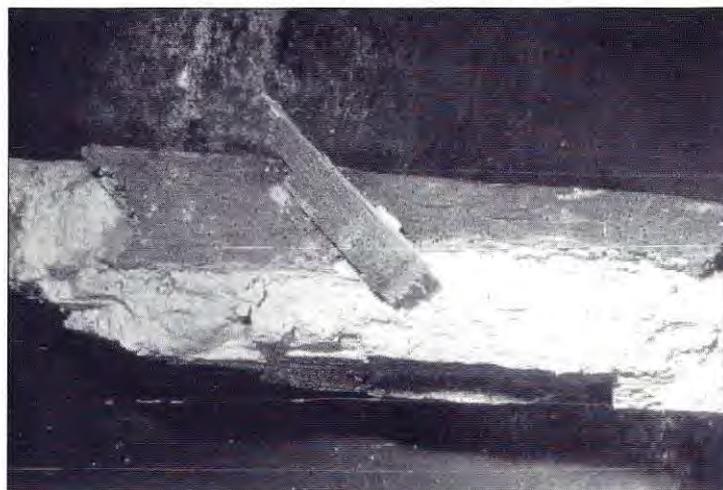


Figure 6 Hardwood beam destroyed by powder-post beetles.

The Catskill Watershed

HENRY KERNAN

The Catskill Mountains of southeastern New York present momentous challenges to the worth of forestry. They are a heavily forested semiwilderness west of the Hudson and north of New York City. Nine million users look to them for drinking water. All agree, residents, visitors, and health officials alike, that their daily flow of 1.2 billion gallons is of outstandingly high quality. Before reaching a spigot they have passed through conduits and reservoirs that are marvels of engineering skill. Yet above them are even greater marvels, the forest soils that absorb, filter and deliver the water to the reservoirs. The challenge to forestry is to keep them doing so, without further filtering than what they naturally give.

The forests have done their work well for decades. Yet, now more people want more water while the sources of contamination proliferate. Ten years ago the Environmental Protection Agency notified the City either to filter its water or to enforce stronger rules and regulations within the watershed. Filtering 1.2 billion gallons is no light matter, an \$8 billion capital expense and a \$500 million

annual operating expense. The City chose the second; the EPA granted a Filtration Avoidance Determination, and the city's Department of Environmental Protection informed the watershed communities of more stringent rules and regulations.

At this point the Catskill communities had already had enough disruption and grief in sending water to New York City for which they were not paid. The City's choice to stagnate. Thirty-four of the communities joined to stop the new watershed plan and they won. Negotiations were long and tortuous, but in January 1997 a Memorandum of Agreement was signed. It drastically changed relations between New York City and the Catskills. The City agreed to support the economic development of the watershed and accept farming and forestry as preferred land uses.

West of the Hudson the watershed takes in about 1.2 million acres, most of them parts of a glaciated and dissected plateau of Devonian origin. Highest points are around 4000 feet, with steep slopes and v-shaped valleys. The underlying rocks are horizontal sedimentary shales and sandstones, low

in salts and nutrients. The soils are acidic, of low to medium fertility.

Consequently three-quarters are under forest and one fifth is farmed. The rest is commercial, residential, and flooded. The lack of natural bodies of water is striking. The resident population is 70,000, with many visitors in all seasons.

Ninety percent of the City water comes from two systems west of the Hudson, the Catskill and the Delaware. Both were built during this century. But the process was hard on the locals. With authority to condemn and regulate land, New York City took over land and buildings and flooded whole valleys along with their hamlets, villages and farms. Stories are rife of families displaced with ten days' notice, of farms bought for \$250, half payable now and the other half you don't know when. Clearly you do not flood 24,000 acres and drain them with hundreds of miles of conduit without the risk of high tensions and hostility; and, in this case, the fact of both.

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) sets a new and better course for the city's watershed policies. They

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Intake house on Neversink Reservoir. Town of Neversink, Sullivan County



Log landing for a small timber sale. Town of Roxbury, Delaware County.

pledge \$1.4 billion to a comprehensive plan for the water resource and the viability of the region's communities, farms and forests. The MOA is cooperative and largely voluntary, with strong local input.

The farm program was under way several years before that of forestry; with a fund of \$35.2 million. Thus far the Watershed Agricultural Council has been principally concerned with pathogenic contamination of water from the region's 350 dairy farms. For each participating farm a Whole Farm Plan is prepared and carried out. Their woodlots average 100 acres but have not been included in the farm plans.

The MOA has two forestry components, for acquisition (\$260 million) and for management (\$585 thousand). Evidently the federal EPA has convinced (or ordered) city officials to change drastically the ownership of the watershed forest. At present New York State owns just over 200,000 acres, almost all of which are within the Catskill Forest Preserve. No timber exploitation takes place therein. New York City owns about 40,000 acres, but intends to acquire in fee simple and conservation easements another 150,000 to 180,000 acres of forest and open land from willing sellers. Will they be open to active forest management? The answer has much import for

the timber industry. Herein is another challenge to forestry.

Thus far the city's purchases of forest land have been few. Nevertheless about 60 percent of the forest will remain in private ownerships numbering between 18 and 20 thousand and averaging 30 acres. Many owners reside elsewhere; few manage their forests actively, and their average length of ownership is about twelve years. Here indeed is a formidable target for education and outreach.

The Watershed Task Force first met late in 1994. By August a forestry "green book" had appeared to clarify and guide the mission of improved water quality protection and sustainable forest management. A Watershed Forestry Committee and Program have evolved from that mission. They operate through a manager and five standing committees.

The concern of one of them is logger training. The Forest Task Force early concluded that timbering as now practiced in the watershed causes no appreciable pollution. Nevertheless the industry is important to the economy and operates best with skillful, well-equipped and well-financed loggers. The region has about 460 loggers, of whom perhaps one third are full-time. Over 100 are now participating in the certification program. Each are

attending a day-long session on productivity, on first-aid, and on the forest. The program is also encouraging best management logging; and, through sale and lease, the use of portable bridges.

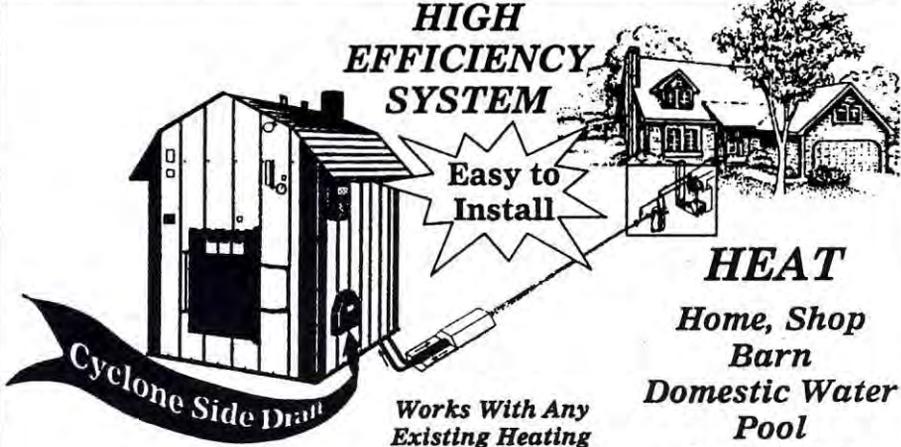
Some question how a landscape whose most notable product is potable water can tolerate logging at any level of skill and care. They do so in a state with many town ordinances that restrict logging and with 2,692,000 acres of productive state forest reserved from any timbering at all. A purpose of logger training and BMP's is to challenge and dissolve those doubts with visible evidence.

Two forests are already demonstrating careful logging and multiple use, one at the YMCA's Frost Valley and another at the Four-H Camp Shankitunk. A further subject of study there will be the influence of forest composition and stocking upon the water yield and quality. Every tree is a pump; but hardwoods intercept and transpire less water than conifers, and absorb more nutrients in their water uptake.

The Catskill and Delaware watershed forests have more to offer than pleasant landscapes and naturally filtered water; they have tree species of excellent quality, of ash, maple, oak and cherry. The purpose of the committee on economic development is to make fuller and better uses of that resource. This includes more local processing and markets for wood products. One possibility is firewood packaged and shipped to the metropolitan area as a luxury item.

Cull trees have long been looked upon as burdens upon forest management, and logging slash even more so. That attitude is changing. We are coming to realize that both have uses in the ecological balance of the forest, for wildlife, for soil, for diversity, and for much else that we seek in a forest. They are certainly less burdensome than once thought.

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continued on page 18

Catskill Watershed (Con't from page 17)

For the mission of the Task Force to succeed, active forest management must receive strong and widespread support, in the City as well as in the watershed. In such a massive object of persuasion forest owners are of special importance. Therefore the forestry program provides funding to them for forest management plans. Another committee is active with educational and outreach events.

The knottiest and most persistent problem is that of forest taxation. The Green Book has the following: "Property taxes are perhaps the single largest direct and indirect impediment to maintaining forestry as a long-term watershed land use."

That they (the taxes) are inequitable is beyond dispute. An owner in the Town of Andes may pay \$2.46 per acre per year and one in Woodstock \$33.02 per acre per year. They relate to the needs of local governments and schools, not to productivity or services received. They preclude growing and selling timber as an economic enterprise. They are particularly high and burdensome in the Catskills where the commercial and residential tax base is small and where roads are difficult to build and maintain. They average \$13 per acre per year.

The committee on taxation has proposed an ingenious shift rather than a solution: the owner pays the school tax (about half of the total) and receives up to 90 percent back from the state treasury.

The most famous view of the Kaatskills (as he called them) is still probably that of Washington Irving. As he looked westward from the Hudson, the lights and shadows on their rounded tops turned his thoughts and pen to a shiftless oddity with a shrewish wife, who fell asleep in a colony and woke up in a republic, and named him Rip van Winkle.

Rip is still with us, and the Kaatskills are still a place of wonder. Their bear, deer, eagles and bobcat are almost within sight of the Manhattan skyline. The trout fishing is excellent and the landscapes have beauties in all seasons. But the greatest wonder of all may well be the gift and results of the Big Apple's \$1.4 billion. 

Henry Kernan, of South Worcester, NY, is a consulting forester in World Forestry, a Master Forest Owner and a regular contributor to The New York Forest Owner.

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to think of all of the benefits you could enjoy from having a pond or a lake on your own property. This idea could become a reality if the right conditions prevail. From our experience it normally requires favorable watershed conditions, good site conditions, owner-commitment to stewardship for enhancement of forest land values, appropriate engineering planning and design, and good construction practices.

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Timber harvest. Town of Roxbury, Delaware County.



John A. Lennox Demonstration Model Forest. Town of Delhi, Delaware County.

Woodlot Calendar

January 8th, 2000

5th Annual New York Maple Producers Conference

Hosted for the first time by the Vernon-Verona-Sherrill (V.V.S.) FFA, in conjunction with the Central New York Maple Producers Association, the conference will be held at the V.V.S. High School on Saturday, January 8th, 2000. The conference is scheduled to begin at 9:00 AM, with registration starting at 8:15 AM, and conclude shortly after 3:00 PM. It is open to the general public, as well as any maple producer.

More than 25 presenters from across New York and New England will be on hand to deliver 21 different workshops conducted throughout the day. Presenters include maple syrup and maple product producers, equipment and supply dealers, manufacturers of specialty maple equipment, and state maple industry researchers and consultants. The cost of the conference registration is \$7.00 for adults, \$5.00 for students, and \$3.00 for FFA members. A home style luncheon, sponsored by the V.V.S. FFA Booster Club, is available during the Conference for an additional \$5.00.

The V.V.S. High School is located between Utica and Syracuse on State Route 31. For more information contact V.V.S. FFA Advisor Keith Schiebel at school at (315) 829-2520, fax (315) 829-4949 or email: kschiebel@vvs-csd-high.moric.org

January 19, 2000

The Western Finger Lakes Chapter of NYFOA will host a meeting discussing **Oil and Gas Leasing** on Wednesday, January 19, 2000 at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Building, 219 Highland Avenue, Rochester, NY. Speakers will include Attorney David Colligan who will address legal issues and lease contracts. Also speaking will be Randy Nenecek, Regional Mineral Resources Program Director for the NYS DEC. He will be discussing environmental regulations regarding oil and gas drilling. For more information please contact Mark Keister at (716) 728-3044.

January 27, 2000

The Wyoming County Maple Producers Association and the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wyoming County are co-sponsoring an educational meeting for commercial and hobby producers of Maple Syrup

and Maple Products. It will be held on Thursday, January 27, 2000 from 7-9:00 pm at the North Java Firehall, Route 98, North Java, NY. The agenda will include presentations and demonstrations on a variety of maple related subjects. Displays of equipment and related products will also be present. Refreshments and door prizes provided. Registration is \$2. For further information contact Steve Childs at (716) 786-2251.

February 12, 2000

Forest 2000 Issues, Values and Opportunities

The Central New York Chapter of NYFOA in cooperation with New York State DEC Division of Lands and Forests and the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga Co. will host a workshop to help CNY forest owners to make informed decisions regarding the future of their valuable forest lands. The workshop will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the DEC Log Cabin, State Fairgrounds, on Saturday February 12, 2000. There is no fee for this program.

To make this a very special event, CEU-Online Inc. of Londonderry, N.H. will broadcast the audio portion of this event live over the Internet. Internet participants will be able to hear the presentations live and submit typed questions to the presenters. For more information and registration visit the CNY-NYFOA website at: <http://home.twcny.rr.com/wminerd> or call (315) 689-7682 to register by phone.

February 26, 2000

The 8th Annual Rural Landowner's Workshop

This workshop will be held at Pioneer High School in Arcade, NY on Saturday February 26 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Topics to help you with finances will include: Timber Taxes; Timber Sale Contracts; Leasing Land for Farm Production; Growing Ginseng and Mushrooms; and Beginning Maple Syrup. Those interested in wildlife can choose from topics such as: Attracting White Tail Deer; Pond Ecology; Habitat for Small Mammals; and Attracting Songbirds. If you are interested in trees and timber production you'll want to sit in on the following classes: Write Your Own Management Plan; Chainsaw Safety; Tree Identification; Growing Christmas Trees; and Cutting Firewood. Pre-registration is required and costs \$15/person (which includes lunch). Registration forms can be obtained from Cornell Cooperative Extension - Allegany/Cattaraugus County, (716) 699-2377.

REPORT FROM *Conservation Organization Meetings*

DICK FOX

New York State Conservation Council

The New York State Conservation Council (NYSCC) which represents over 350,000 members in 2000 county-wide clubs and state-wide associations, at their 66th Annual Fall convention held in Auburn, considered and acted upon 23 resolutions. Of the ten resolutions that were passed, two are especially notable.

Seek Constitutional Amendment

The most notable resolution proposes that the DEC manage 5% of the Forest Preserve for the improvement of wildlife habitat, including the cutting of trees. It is expected that such a practice will require an amendment to the NYS Constitution, in particular Article 14 that prohibits the cutting of trees in the Adirondack and Catskill forest preserves. According to Frank

Hartman, NYSCC Legislative Vice President, the nearly unanimous support for this resolution represents a complete turn around from the last time this idea was proposed to the council.

The second supports the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) maintaining the two pheasant-rearing Game Farms in NYS. It opposes the planned closure of the John White Farm in Genesee County and the modernization of the Richard Reynolds Farm in Tompkins County. This department decision is only part of the effort to balance operating expenses with revenues because of projected Conservation Fund shortfalls in the absence of the DEC-requested 20% fee increases.

Disagree on Coyote Management

A resolution that did not pass was attended by a discussion typical of the

variation in sportsmen opinions and passions and was premature regarding the scientific data. It was proposed to remove all regulatory protection from the coyote. It was argued that the numbers were too high resulting in excessive predation of domestic pets, farm animals and wildlife (particularly deer). Trappers opposed the removal of regulations; they considered the taking of coyote at any time when the fur was not marketable a waste of natural resources. Some, speaking on behalf of farmers, argued that the coyote helped to control the rodent population. They further added that the season had been extended and that coyote could be harvested at any time when there was a clear case of predation of domestic animals. The final vote was 24-yes; 26-no; 2-abstained. Many felt that the issue was clouded by human perceptions and not determined by species management goals.

continued on page 21

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New York State Fish and Wildlife Management Act Board

The New York State Fish and Wildlife Management Act Board (NYS FWMB) is a statutory board established by the NYS Legislature in 1957 and formed by representatives from each NYS DEC Region of the state. Three members to the regional Boards are chosen by each county to represent sportsmen, landowners and county legislators, respectively. At the three-day fall meeting of the NYS FWMB at Lake George, after a welcome and short description of Region 5 by Tom Wahl, Natural Resources Supervisor, the various regions and advisory group members submitted their reports to the assemblage.

There were detailed special presentations on: (1) the upcoming computerized licensing (Tom Kaskey) with expected dates of completion; (2) DEC Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources (Gerry Barnhart), in particular, adjustments to expected revenue shortfalls resulting in loss of personnel and programs; (3) DEC's Maintenance Management System (Rick Shearer) with a list of DEC assets for each region and county provided; (4) NYS Canal System (Linda Pomeroy) with a discussion of access and regulations for recreational activities; (5) DEC Environmental Enforcement (James Tuffey & Terry Rivella) with a discussion of the new Team approach; and (6) the TV program, "Empire State Outdoors" (Laurel Remus & Neil Satterly).

Legislative Delays

During the course of the meeting, frustration with the Legislature was expressed regarding: (1) The Eddie Eagle Legislation. This bill, which is designed to warn children attending NYS Schools from touching firearms and to report any firearms discovered to an adult, passed in both houses and is "just sitting in the Assembly"; (2) The General Obligations Law Amendments which would help protect landowners from civil suit for non-fee recreational

use (This legislative effort is held up by lobbying of the NYS Trial Lawyers Association; it was reported that a committee from the 105 Associations supporting the legislation will meet with the Trial Lawyer's Executive Director); and (3) The license fee increases which were recommended and supported by the Conservation Fund Advisory Board, NYSCC and the NYS FWMB.

The last day of the meeting focused on resolutions. In addition to a Letter of Support for 5 Resolutions of the NYSCC, the NYS FWMB passed 7 of 8 resolutions generated by the Board and considered independently. Significantly, there were two resolutions effecting the Forest Preserve: managing 5% for improved wildlife habitat, including areas of storm damage and utility corridors and a second, support for a national effort to curb acid rain. Also, the Board reaffirmed a license fee increase, resolved support for an aggressive DEC cormorant control program and the continued maintenance of the two Pheasant-rearing Game Farms. 

Dick Fox is the Cayuga County Representative to the Forest Practice Board and a member of NYFOA.

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NYFOA NEWS

Multistate Video Conference

 A multi-state satellite video conference, "Economic Issues of Forest Stewardship" is being planned through the Cooperative Extension units of Cornell University, Penn State University, University of Maryland, Rutgers University, and the University of Connecticut.

The satellite video conference will be downlinked on Saturday April 15, 2000. The video conference will be during the morning with field-based wraparound sessions at or near downlink sites planned for the afternoon. Potential downlink sites include Cooperative Extension offices. Agenda topics are: (1) Management issues and assessment of property/family for natural resource-based opportunities; (2) Examples of natural resource income opportunities; (3) Managing natural resource taxes; (4) Estate planning; and (5) Panel discussion with phoned/faxed questions.

Resource materials will be available to all downlink sites to supplement speakers and aid in the delivery of wraparound sessions. Please mark your calendars and look forward to more details in the near future. Please direct all questions or comments to Peter Smallidge by

phone (607) 255-4696 or email at pjs23@cornell.edu

Edward G. Dixon Passes Away

 Edward G. Dixon, 71, of 6690 Bush Road, Lafayette, died recently in a tractor accident. Dixon, a member of the CNY Chapter of NYFOA was born in Syracuse and graduated from East Syracuse High School in 1946. He retired in 1993 after 30 years as a laboratory equipment designer at the SUNY Health Science Center, Syracuse. He was a Master Forest Owner and member of the American Tree Farm System. Contributions can be made to NYFOA in care of John Druke, 6341 Kirkville Road, Kirkville, NY 13208.

Ask the Forester

 There has been renewed interest in bringing back the "Ask the Forester" column. We have an array of Foresters who would be willing to answer questions NYFOA members may have pertaining to forestry and forest management issues. Please submit any questions or suggestions to:

The New York Forest Owner
"Ask the Forester" Column
134 Lincklaen Street
Cazenovia, NY 13035
e-mail: mmalmshe@syr.edu

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Materials submitted for the March/April 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 Articles, artwork and photos are invited and if requested, are returned after use.



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NYFOA Scholarship Fund

As of December 1, 1999, the NYFOA Endowed Scholarship Fund that is administered by the SUNY ESF College Foundation, Inc. has a fund balance of \$19,872.17.

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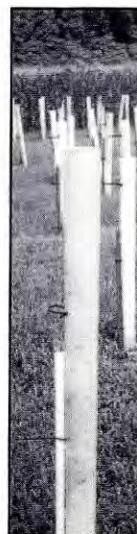
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