

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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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.

www.nyfoa.org

COVER: Example of a pruning in a 25 year old White Spruce plantation on Patrick H. Kelly's woodlot. See page 18 for full story. Photograph courtesy of Patrick H. Kelly.

From The President

What route will you take on September 22nd? Peggy and I will drive up the Northway (I-87) in the beautiful fall colors to the Warrensburg Exit, then north on route 28 through Warrensburg for 3-4 miles. When Route 28 bears left, we'll go straight onto Route 9, and look for the Pack Demonstration Forest sign. The route you take isn't significant, but getting to NYFOA's fall conference is.

The Southeast Adirondack and Capital District chapters have planned a tremendous weekend of events - eats, entertainment, and education - at SUNY-ESF's



Pack Forest. If you haven't registered, call (518) 798-0248 today. The folks planning for food and other arrangements need to know

that you are coming.

Repeatedly I'm reminded of the need to reach private landholders with sound information. A forester in Lewis County tells me of the woodlots he sees that have been devastated by unplanned and unmonitored harvests. I'm told Schoharie County residents received a letter soliciting standing timber signed by a "New York State Approved Forester." Well, readers, NY doesn't have any process, registration, licensing or regulations that "approve" foresters. It may be an oversight, but I have to wonder about a businessman who seems to fabricate credentials. At the same time, I commend the huge effort the state has made in timber theft awareness and prosecution in the last 3 - 4 years—positive results from legislative changes approved in 1997 by Governor Pataki. DEC Commissioner John Cahill's Divisions of Law Enforcement and Lands and Forests welcome the chance to help landowners with trespass and theft complaints, as the Department continues to promote steps to help prevent and crack down on timber theft.

For everyone who uses wood or owns forestland, Attorney General Eliot Spitzer has put new meaning into the title of his agency, The Department of Law, as his staff pursues and prosecutes timber trespass and theft cases. The Attorney General understands that theft through trespass or deceptive practices robs owners of their financial due, and usually robs the forest resource of its environmental health and well being for generations to come.

The Legislature continues its focus on this natural resource "cancer." Senators Patricia McGee and Nancy Hoffmann held hearings last spring in Albany, and as this Forest Owner goes to press, have scheduled further hearings in Syracuse (see page 13) and Jamestown.

In the final analysis, however, much of the responsibility for preventing timber theft rests squarely with the landowner. Only we can decide to use professionals, get second or third opinions, check references and reputations, and pay attention to what is going on in the neighborhood. The vast majority of loggers are honest and dependable, and want to treat the resource which provides their livelihood with care and respect. Those who live by lesser standards continue in large part because uninformed landowners let them continue.

On a very different note, this issue of the Forest Owner includes Doug Allen's 52nd consecutive article. He has had an article in every issue of the Forest Owner for over eight and a half years! Dr. Allen is a Professor of Entomology at SUNY - ESF and does a superb job of alerting and informing readers about insects in a straight-forward and easy to understand way. Thank you Doug, for your continuing strong commitment to helping NYFOA members better understand the insect world and the sometimes unseen happenings in their woodlots.

We're looking forward to NYFOA's fall conference and a great weekend at Pack Forest in September, and hope you are, too. 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.

I/We would like to support good forestry and stewardship of New York's forest lands

() I/We own _____ acres of woodland.

() I/We do not own woodland but support the Association's objectives.

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Referred by: _____

Annual Dues (Please Circle One):

Student	\$10
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Sponsoring	\$101+

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In The MAIL



En Rapport With Earth

The universe is in love with motion;

All things sway with the wind,

Wiggling, never quite still, bush and tree,

Free and beautiful, mingled in misty
communion,

One part with another, valley and hill.

Mobility is a language en rapport with
earth,

Coupled with sound, the obvious and the
subtle,

The thunder of summer storms, whispers of
warm winds,

A world perceptible yet not fully perceived
As though it were wedded to all humanity

And yet from all relieved.

Always the tomorrows will come

And tomorrow is the storm and the sun,

And each greenly growing tree will

Shed crystal beads of rain down,

Riding to its end each natural rage

With comfort to earth in subtle shades.

—Dorothy Darling
Odessa, NY

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In Memoriam. . .

CHARLES E. BOONE

Charles E. Boone, 80, of Westerlo, NY, formerly of Delmar, passed away at his home on July 28, 2000. He was born in Long Lake, NY on October 9, 1919. He graduated from Long Lake High School in 1937 and in 1941 he graduated from the former NYS College of Forestry at Syracuse. He began his career as a campsite ranger at Marcy Dam near Lake Placid. He also worked seasonally with the Enlarged Reforestation Program.

On May 18, 1942 he married Betty Young in Albany and after a second season at Marcy Dam he left to serve in the US Army, serving in the Army Air Corps. Upon his discharge he resumed work as a forester at Oneonta until promoted in the Bureau of State Forests to supervising forester in 1957. In 1959 he was promoted to Superintendent of State Forests. In 1970 he assumed the superintendent's job in the Bureau of Forest Fire Control and continued in that position until his retirement in 1981. Under his direction, innovations in wildfire detection, Forest Ranger training, fire suppression techniques and standards of dress and conduct were carried out in Fire Management. Law enforcement procedures were adopted conforming statewide standards with program requirements. In 1971 the New York State Section of the Society of American Foresters recognized his accomplishments in the Bureau of State Forests and awarded him its first Citation of Merit.

Charlie was a member of the Capital District chapter of NYFOA and the Society of American Foresters. He had served as chairman of the New York Section of SAF and as Editor of the New York Forester for 17 years. He spent his retirement on his farm "Golden Acres" raising Charolais beef cattle.



TREE FARM NEWS

AFF'S American Tree Farm System® and
AF&PA'S Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)SM Program
Collaborate To Expand The Practice of Sustainable Forestry

*Mutual Recognition of Forest Management Standards and Certification Systems
Acknowledges Respective Standards on Large and Small Ownerships*

Two of the largest forest management standards and certification programs in the United States—the American Forest Foundation's (AFF) American Tree Farm Systems and the American Forest and Paper Association's (AF&PA) Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)SM program—have formally recognized each other's respective standards for sustainable forest management.

In a Mutual Recognition Agreement, AF&PA recognizes Tree Farm as a credible standard for sustainable forestry on smaller ownerships, including non-industrial forest landowners. The American Tree Farm System recognizes the SFISM program as an independent standard for the forest products industry, larger ownerships and licensees. The SFI program encompasses more than 60 million acres; an additional 25 million acres are certified under the Tree Farm System.

The Mutual Recognition Agreement acknowledges that the intent, outcome and process of both the SFI

program and Tree Farm are substantively equivalent and that the credibility and reputation of each program will be maintained by the programs' respective systems already in place. In doing so, the Tree Farm program and the SFI program will remain independent of each other and will continue to use their own methods to measure and assure performance standards by participants, partners and licensees. Participants of both programs are committed to sustainable forest management. The Agreement allows Tree Farm and the SFI program to collaborate further to broaden the practice of sustainable forestry on private lands and to educate non-managing landowners about the benefits and support for practicing sound forestry.

"The American Forest Foundation's (AFF) Tree Farm System and AF&PA's SFI program have enjoyed a long history of cooperation and mutual respect," said AFF president Laurence Wiseman. "We've worked hard to make Tree Farm a certification, educational and outreach

program that serves the interests of small landowners. Recognizing each other's standards provides Tree Farm and the SFI program new opportunities to work together for continuous improvement on all sizes of ownership," he said.

"The goal of the SFI program has always been to expand the practice of sustainable forestry on all forestlands," said AF&PA President & CEO, W. Henson Moore. "As such, this agreement provides a practical means for all landowners to demonstrate to both domestic and international markets that SFI participants and Tree Farmers are second to none in environmental stewardship."

In 1998, the Tree Farm System was formally recognized through resolution by the forest industry's SFI program as a powerful tool for advancing the practice of sustainable forestry on private lands. Today, the Mutual Recognition Agreement encourages SFI program participants to discharge their responsibilities for nonindustrial landowner outreach through direct participation in Tree Farm activities at the state and local levels. As part of the agreement, an independent third-party audit of the American Tree Farm System will be initiated within the next 12 months to contribute to Tree Farm's course of continuous improvement. In addition, both parties will work together to achieve national and international recognition of their respective programs as meaningful systems for expanding and certifying the practice of sustainable forestry. 

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Woodlot Management:

Avoiding Tree Damage by Porcupine Control

ROBERT JOHNSON

Soon after buying my woodlot I began noticing the odd shapes and poor growth of many of the young hemlocks. They were flat-topped and spindly. The next winter the trails in the snow and the nipped branch tips on the ground told the tale—it was the work of porcupines. I had also seen that the porcupines had been girdling the upper trunks and branches of midsize maples.

Since porcupines are largely nocturnal it was difficult to see and shoot them while the damage was being done. During early May the next spring, when the new leaves were emerging, it did prove possible to spot several porcupines already out at dusk in the treetops and to shoot them. This was a start to limiting their numbers and reducing the tree loss.

During the second winter I began following porcupine trails in the snow

and located a hollow beech tree with an opening at its base and a huge mound of dung inside. I was able to hear the scratching of claws inside as I knelt at the opening. Here was a place to make a major dent in the porcupine population!

I bought a 220 Conibear trap and returned to set it at the den opening. With some difficulty I managed to drive a couple of propping sticks in the mostly frozen ground. In another day I had the first porcupine caught. Soon a second, then a third. The catch slowed down for a time but every few weeks there was another porcupine in the trap. Apparently, every one around that area stopped by that den sooner or later.

I pulled the trap in late spring, reset it in the fall, and by the end of that year had eliminated ten porcupines at the beech den. Since then, the take at that location has averaged six a year; as of June, 2000, the total was 33.

The beech den is at the far end of my woods, a long, narrow ridgetop

about four-fifths of a mile in length. At the other end, near the access road, I began putting out food for deer in a rough trough built between two large cedars. Soon, the food was disappearing daily but there didn't seem to be many deer tracks in the snow. Instead there were loose small quills in the trough. I built a cubby of rough lumber, screening one end with hardware cloth and leaving the other end open as a place to set a Conibear. With deer food inside as bait, I caught a porcupine the first night, then another and another. The sixth, and last for early spring 2000, was a 35-pounder.

How many porcupines can there be in and around one 110-acre woodlot? All I know is that the surviving hemlocks are now growing straight tops. Now, if I could just keep the deer from eating every hemlock seedling, I'd have some future wildlife cover. 🦦

Robert Johnson resides in Gouverneur, NY and is a member of NYFOA.



Hemlocks with leaders killed by porcupine girdling.



Cubby made to fit 220 size Conibear type trap.

Portable Band Sawmill Used in Dam Project

 In the summer of 1837, author Nathaniel Hawthorne watched the building of the Edwards Dam from his hotel room on the west bank of the Kennebec River, in Augusta, Maine. The 971 foot long dam was being constructed to provide waterpower to the new mills along the river. The building of the 163-year-old dam is estimated to have used 2 million board feet of white pine, spruce, hemlock, oak, maple, and birch. In 1997, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission decided that the dam should be torn down so the salmon, shad, herring, and other species of fish could reach their ancient spawning grounds upstream. PerkinsWood of Portland, Maine purchased the century old logs. Craftsmen of fine reproduction furniture, PerkinsWood expects to be able to recycle about 660,000 BF into tables, chairs, flooring, musical instruments, etc. The richness of the wood is enhanced by the trees' sap having been washed away and replaced by the minerals in the water. One of the logs reclaimed from the dam was reported to have 380 growth rings. Perkins selected Greg Provost of Sabattus, Maine to saw the logs into lumber on his Timber Harvester Portable Band Sawmill because of its thin kerf, efficiency and accuracy. He has already sawn 60,000 BF, and expects to complete the job by the winter of 2000. For more information on the portable band sawmill used in this operation, contact Timber Harvester at (800) 343-2969.

Forest Sales Online

 The Woodland Stewardship Company Ltd. is offering forest owners, wanting to sell their woodland without having to pay a sales commission, the opportunity to list their property on the company's website.

By completing an application form on the "Forest Sales" page or offline, if the seller prefers, and sending a payment of \$50 for an annual listing, forest owners will be able to market their forest property independently and globally on

NEWS & NOTES

the internet, similar to the way vendors in the housing market are currently listing and selling their property.

Also, if you are a potential buyer of forest property, you can post or e-mail your requirements on the application form on the "Properties Wanted" page for free. If the company can match what the buyer wants with the vendor's property, the company will put the seller directly in touch with the buyer.

For further details contact Martin B. Jones, Tel: +44 1743 289670, Fax: +44 1743 289650 E-mail: wood.stewardcoulk@virgin.net or visit the company website at: www.woodlandstewardship.com

Updated Inventory of Forests

 At the request of the Rural Resources Commission, \$100,000 was appropriated in the state budget to match federal moneys for an updated inventory of forests in New York state to be conducted by the U.S. Forest Service. For more information, contact the Department of Environmental Conservation at (518) 457-1162.

SUNY-ESF President Whaley Retires

 Goodbye and best wishes to Ross Whaley, former President of SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry on his retirement. A leader in forestry and environmental protection, President Whaley served for many years. He will be sorely missed. Welcome to the new president of SUNY ESF, Cornelius B. Murphy, Jr., Ph.D. Murphy was previously chairman of the board of the Syracuse-based O'Brien and Gere Limited, a design, engineering and consulting firm specializing in environmental remediation. "I am very pleased," said Murphy. "This is indeed an exciting opportunity for me."

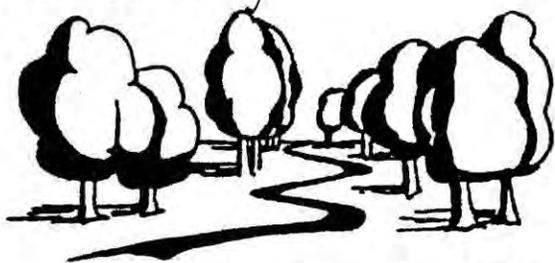
Evaluation of SIP-ICE

 The January 1998 ice storm that impacted much of the northern tier of New York and New England prompted regional response by USDA to assist impacted landowners, forest owners and local communities. The storm significantly damaged 3 million acres of forest across 6 northern NY counties. Cost-share funds were allocated to NYS forest owners via the federal Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP) as administered by NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation and local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices. Nearly 700 landowners applied for technical assistance through special SIP-ICE funds. Some of the special practices included revision of management plans; clearing of roads, trails, ditches, and streams; and designation of damaged trees for removal and fire hazard reduction.

A mail survey was conducted in April 1999 by Cornell University's Human Dimensions Research Unit (HDRU) to evaluate the SIP-ICE process from the applicant's perspective and evaluate the technical assistance provided and its impact on forestland management. Based on a nearly 75% response rate of all applicants, the survey found that: 1) DEC foresters, FSA staff, and consulting foresters were rated between good and excellent on all characteristics queried, 2) most applicants found the application easy to understand and complete, 3) 40% of the applicants considered the time it took to get approval for SIP practices and payment was too long, 4) most people rated the technical information they received moderately to very useful, and 5) half of the applicants said their desire for financial assistance was a very important reason for their efforts in stewardship activities.

A full report (Evaluation of SIP-ICE in NY and its use as a tool for providing technical assistance, No. 99-6) on this effort is available free from the HDRU at Cornell. Write to: HDRU, Dept. Nat. Res., Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY 14853. A complete listing of publications available from HDRU can be found at: www.dnr.cornell.edu/hdru/ 

Stand By



Your Stream™

Streamside Restoration — Do's and Don'ts

REBECCA L. SCHNEIDER

Streamside habitats are integrally connected to the health and ecology of fish and other organisms within the stream and to many terrestrial species as well. Streamside habitats also help improve water quality. Protection of the streamside habitat is critical. Proper management, however, depends not only on maintaining the integrity of the streamside but also on controlling activities in the watershed surrounding it. These management issues can be considered under four broad categories.

Maintain a Healthy, Vegetated Streamside Buffer.

Why?:

Vegetation in the streamside is the key to many different aspects of

water quality and stream ecology. A diversity of plant types and species will provide food, cover, habitat and corridors for wildlife. Plant stems, foliage and litter retard stormwaters and reduce flooding downstream. Root systems prevent erosion and help to filter out contaminants from groundwater.

DO:

- ◆ Establish a vegetated buffer using native plant species. Exotic species frequently have low value for wildlife, are invasive and form monotypic stands.
- ◆ Use a variety of tree, shrub, and herbaceous species. High plant diversity supports more wildlife and provides stability if some of the plants don't survive. Choose species tolerant of anticipated flooding and soil moisture conditions.
- ◆ Optimum widths for streamside buffers are under debate. Generally, a minimum buffer width of 60 feet is recommended for filtering with increased widths on steeper slopes. Wider buffers (100-300 feet) are recommended for wildlife. U.S.D.A. suggests the following three-zone design for maximizing

streamside filtering and other functions.

Three-Zone Buffer System

Zone 1: Protected stream edge (15 feet wide)

Maintain with mature, healthy trees adapted to frequent flooding and/or shallow water tables. Logging is discouraged, however occasional maintenance is necessary. Remove dead trees. Also monitor and remove large branches that have fallen into the stream and are interfering with stream flow.

Zone 2: Managed tree and shrub zone (60 feet wide)

Plant a diversity of trees and shrubs adapted to anticipated flooding conditions. Maintain forest litter to help promote organic matter buildup and filtering processes. Harvest selected trees at 12 year or greater intervals to maximize stand vigor and remove accumulated nutrients and biomass.

Zone 3: Grass runoff control strip (20 feet wide)

A strip of warm-weather grasses maintains a high density of stems to slow surface runoff and encourage uniform, shallow overland flow. This strip is mowed regularly or some controlled grazing is allowed for a thick layer of roots and organic matter to develop.

DON'T:

- ◆ Don't clear out established vegetation just to improve your view. Instead, replace larger trees with attractive shrubs and scattered small trees. Don't dump lawn clippings or other debris in the buffer area because it kills vegetation and prevents plants from reestablishing. Don't build within the streamside area or overload the bank top.

NYFOA Scholarship Fund

As of August 1, 2000, the NYFOA Endowed Scholarship Fund that is administered by the SUNY ESF College Foundation, Inc. has a fund balance of \$22,689.60

Control Water Flow Through the Streamside Buffer.

Why?

Rain water and snowmelt flow by overland and subsurface pathways, from the uplands through the streamside and into the stream. When channelized, overland flow is rapid and erosive with little time for contaminants to be removed. In contrast, sheetflow and subsurface flow move more slowly and contact more substrates where filtering can occur.

DO:

- ◆ Control stormwater from dwellings. Direct runoff to grassy areas. Shape or grade ground surfaces to prevent channelized flow into the buffer. If necessary, use structures to convert channelized flow into sheet flow.
- ◆ Minimize impervious areas near the streamside. Use stone or brick instead of pavement for driveways and walkways.
- ◆ Cover exposed soil with mulch or establish a ground cover to prevent erosion.
- ◆ Set gardens level and well away from the streamside area.
- ◆ Repair damage from large storms; fill in eroding channels and replant or cover exposed substrates.

DON'T:

- ◆ Don't allow vehicles, livestock, or excessive pedestrian traffic in the buffer. All these activities trample vegetation, compact the soil and destroy plant roots. Increased erosion and decreased filtering will result.

Prevent Contaminants From Entering the Streamside.

Why?

Healthy vegetated streamside filter out nutrients and many contaminants from runoff and groundwater. However, the capacity for

filtration is limited and there are some household and agricultural chemicals which are particularly toxic or non-biodegradable. Therefore it is important to minimize the amount of contaminants which flow into the streamside buffer.

DO:

- ◆ Fence off livestock and manage their wastes to minimize flow into the buffer.
- ◆ Maintain your septic system and have it pumped periodically.
- ◆ Reduce use of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides on lawns, gardens and farms.
- ◆ Remove trash and debris from the streamside because they physically impede plant growth and may leach harmful chemicals.
- ◆ Start a household compost area for lawn clippings and vegetable wastes away from the buffer.

DON'T:

- ◆ Never dump automotive wastes or household chemicals into the buffer.

Establish a Streamside Neighborhood.

Why?

By the nature of water flow, streams and streamside are integrally connected to all parts of the landscape. Water quality and ecology within your stream segment is linked directly to stream processes upstream and downstream. Many wildlife species are dependent on these natural corridors. Stresses upstream, such as vegetation clearing, erosion or nutrient loading, will have impacts for long distances downstream.

DO:

- ◆ Link-up with streamside owners all along your stream corridor. Get involved with environmental groups and park agencies that also have

streamside properties. Create a sense of neighborhood that will help protect the stream.

Special Considerations

Logging in your streamside:

Poor logging practices clear needed vegetation, compact the soil and increase erosion. Take special care when logging in or near streamside and consult a forester for detailed advice. Otherwise, it is best to log in the streamside area only when the ground is frozen. Don't store slash or place roads directly within the buffer area.

Restoration:

Excessive livestock use, development, and other activities can severely denude and erode the streamside area. Complete restoration may require the use of bulkheads, riprap, or other activities which require permits. Such restoration is also labor and resource intensive. Check with representatives from the Natural Resource Conservation Service and with the New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation regarding permits and sources of help before initiating a streamside restoration project. ▲

Rebecca Schneider is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University. Her expertise focuses on the interactions between plants and groundwater in wetlands, along lakeshores and streamside.

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Assistance for New York Forest Owners

Own ing forestland in New York State is an exciting but detailed undertaking.

Consequently, many forest owners need help with the management of their holdings and are interested in knowing the people and organizations that are available to assist them.

Ownership of forest land can provide numerous benefits such as revenue, wildlife habitat improvements, improved water quality, and recreation. However, ownership also carries costs and responsibilities that may require assistance from others.

Forest owners are faced with many considerations when they first decide to manage their land for forest products. Questions that may arise are: (1) What are the advantages and

disadvantages of New York's Forest Tax Law (Sec. 480-a of the Real Property Tax Law)? (2) How can stewardship objectives be achieved while meeting financial needs? (3) Are potentially expensive practices like thinning or pruning warranted? (4) How can recreational opportunities be maintained when a forest is being managed primarily for timber production? (5) What is the woodlot's susceptibility to insect, disease, or fire damage, and what are the appropriate precautionary measures against such hazards? and (6) When, how, and by whom should harvesting be conducted?

Help is available to answer these and other forest management questions. This guide lists the major

public and private organizations that offer assistance to forest owners and outlines these services performed by these organizations. The Table on the next page identifies the appropriate organizations for New York State landowners to contact regarding any of the 12 interests listed. Services provided by the organizations can generally be grouped into four categories. As presented in the Table, "individual consultation" pertains to

activities such as answering phone calls, letters, and personal inquiries; "informational services" pertain to the distribution of informational or instructional publications, and to the sponsoring of meetings, workshops, field trips, or short courses; "on-site technical assistance" pertains to professional services provided (usually for a fee) such as marking trees for thinning or harvest, arranging sales, or logging; and "cost-sharing for on-site technical assistance" pertains to reimbursement of certain management expenses. Some overlap of service exists among the organizations; for instance, all organizations will provide general information, but some are better equipped than others to handle such requests. An organization is paired with an interest in the table only if it *specializes* in the topic. In addition, some of the public organizations listed are involved with several general program areas other than forestry.

Because of space limitations, it is not possible to include every organization that provides forestry assistance or to detail fully the purpose and activities of such organizations. Some timber companies and private consulting foresters will perform free on-site management services for private nonindustrial forest owners in return for allowing the company "first refusal rights" on future timber sales. Owners of woodland near large timber company lands may consider using such services.

This article is a Cornell Cooperative Extension publication of the Department of Natural Resources, New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, a Statutory College of the State University at Cornell University.

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Matching New York Forest Owners' Interests with Appropriate Assistance Organizations

ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATIONS	INTEREST*												
	Gen. Forestry Information	Planting	Timber Production	Firewood Production	Christmas Tree Production	Maple Syrup Production	Wildlife	Tax Information	Cruising, Appraisal	Sales, Marketing	Logging Techniques	Legislative Action	
Public													
NYS Cooperative Extension Master Forest Owner Program	AB AB	AB AB	AB AB	AB AB	AB AB	AB AB	AB AB	AB AB	AB AB	AB AB	AB AB	AB AB	AB AB
NYSDEC Division of Lands and Forests	ABC	ABC	ABC	ABC	ABC	ABC	ABC	ABC	ABC	ABC	ABC	ABC	ABC
Soil and Water Conservation Districts	ABC	ABC		B	ABC	B	ABC						
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry	AB	AB	AB										
USDA CFSA ***	B	D	D	D		D	D		D				
USDA Forest Service	AB	A	A	A			A		A	A	A		
USDA NRCS RC&D	ABC	ABC	ABC		ABC		ABC				ABC	B	
Private													
American Forest Foundation	B												
American Tree Farm System	AB	AB	AB	AB	AB				AB	AB	ABC	B	
Catskill Forest Association	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Empire State Forest Products Assoc.	B												B
NY Christmas Tree Growers' Assoc.		AC			ABC			B		B			
NY Forest Owners Assoc.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
NY Institute of Consulting Foresters	ABC	ABC	ABC	ABC	ABC	ABC	ABC	ABC	ABC	ABC	A		
NY Soc. of American Foresters	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
NYS Forest Practice Board**													
NYS Maple Producers' Assoc.						B	B						B
NYS Timber Producers' Assoc.			ABC	ABC					ABC	ABC	ABC		
NYS Woodsmen's Field Days	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B				B
NE Loggers' Assoc.	B		B	B				B		B	B	B	
T.H.R.I.F.T.	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B

* A = individual consultation, B = informational services, C = on-site technical assistance, D = cost-sharing for on-site technical assistance in accordance with provisions of various programs.

** Services are those provided by NYSDEC Division of Lands and Forests.

*** Consolidated Farm Service Agency

Woodlot Calendar

September 13, 2000 (Wednesday)

Public Hearing on Timber Theft. A public hearing on timber theft on public and private lands in NYS will be held from 12-4 pm on Wednesday, September 13th at SUNY ESF in Marshall Hall. Oral testimony will be limited to 10 minutes. Three copies of written testimony should be provided at the time of the hearing. For more information contact Kathleen Carroll at (518) 455-2544.

September 18-20, 2000 (Monday - Wednesday)

FRAGMENTATION 2000: A Conference on Sustaining Private Forests in the 21st Century will be held on September 18-20, 2000 in Annapolis, MD at the Radisson Hotel. For more information contact Mike Jacobson, Assistant Professor/ Extension Forester, Pennsylvania State University, School of Forest Resources, 7 Ferguson Building, University Park, PA. 16802 Phone: (814) 863-0401.

September 22-24, 2000 (Friday - Sunday)

NYFOA 2000 Fall Conference. Charles Lathrop Pack Demonstration Forest, Warrensburg, NY. See page 15 for information.

October 10-13, 2000 (Tuesday - Friday)

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry is pleased to announce the Third *Biennial Conference: Short*

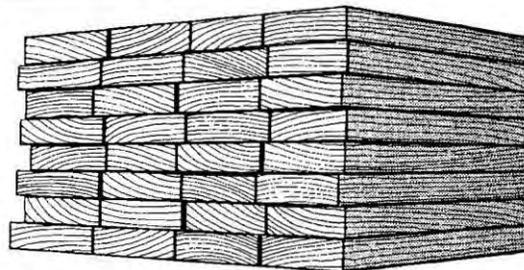
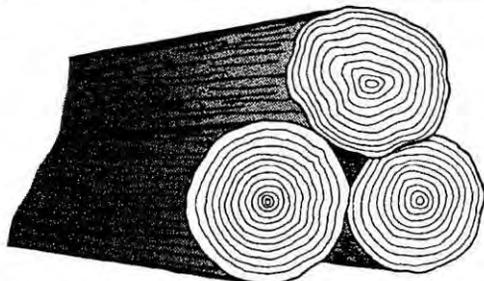
Rotation Woody Crops Operations Group on October 10-13, 2000 in Syracuse, New York. For more information: Phone: (315) 470-6891 Fax: (315) 470-6890 Email: ce@esf.edu Webpage: www.esf.edu/willow

October 29, 2000 (Sunday)

Capital District Chapter Woodswalk at Cheese Hill area of Rensselaerville State Forest in southwestern Albany County. This 2800-acre forest has been actively managed since the Civilian Conservation Corps planted conifer plantations which we will visit, along with adjacent areas that went through natural succession. We'll see an example of how market development was related to management, an area that was infected with Ips engraver beetle, how forest management has affected conditions for wildlife and for recreational opportunities, and more.

From Rensselaerville (at terminus of NY Rte. 85), take County Rte 353 until you reach the intersection with Rte. 358, where you will turn left (south). From that point, there will be yellow NYFOA signs to direct you to the meeting place near Camp Cass. Leader for the walk is Mike Greason.

The woodswalk begins at 2pm Eastern **STANDARD** Time. For information or more directions, call (518) 943-9230 or (518) 861-8753.



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LEWIS STAATS & MICHAEL GREASON

Question

My question concerns the best economic alternative for utilizing the maple in my stand. Because of its location and the topography of the woodlot, it seems ideal for a sugar bush operation (sap could easily be collected via a gravity fed tubing system). However, I don't have the time or the inclination to start a maple syrup operation, but I would consider either a tap lease or collecting and selling sap to a maple syrup producer. I realize that if I do this, I will decrease the value of the buttlog for future sale, and I may not be able to sell the bottom 6' at all. However, if I "preserve the quality" of the tree for future sawlog sale, I lose the potential annual income that could be realized from a tap lease or sale of raw sap.

Am I better off taking some annual income by tapping the trees and losing some value down the road if and when I harvest them for sawlogs, or should I leave the trees alone and hope to maximize their value for that sale 15 or 20 years from now? Any other factors I should consider? Any advice would be greatly appreciated.

—Larry Van De Valk
Cobleskill, NY

Answer

Regarding the question of tapping trees that may be harvested later for sawlogs, there are several factors that should be taken under consideration. First regarding the lumber value loss associated with tapping sugar maples, there will be discoloration that is developed above and below the taphole in the sapwood. The amount of stain will vary between trees based on age

and vigor of the trees tapped and the quality of the growing site. Studies and experience indicate the amount of discoloration zone is limited to 18 inches or less above and below the taphole and about 1/2 inch wide. Generally, this is the first few feet of the butt log.

Another factor is that the management of sugar maple stands for sap production varies from that for timber management. Managing sugar maple stands for increased sap production requires lower stocking levels to encourage wider and deeper crowns with longer rotations (a sugar maple tree can continue to be a good sap producer after it has passed the age of financial maturity as a timber tree). In addition, the return (rate of taphole rent) from leasing trees for tapping will vary based on the ease of collection or accessibility, aspect, and sap transfer distance to processing point.

—Lewis Staats
Sr. Extension Associate
Dept. of Natural Resources
Cornell University

Question

Would it be possible, since different buyers use different scales, to publish a comparison chart of International, Scribner and Doyle scales. Many times it is better to accept the lower B.F. of Doyle scale for a higher price and savings on the trucking as they usually haul by the B.F.

—Blair Smith
Stuyvesant, NY

Answer

There is a comparison table for International 1/4", Scribner Decimal C and Doyle log rules published in the Timber Management Field Handbook put out by the USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area (NA-MR-7). In the 1975 edition, the table is located on page 2-13.

I looked up a few examples for you, as follows: (All 16 foot logs & expressed in board feet or BF)

	12"	16"	20"	24"
International	95	180	290	425
Scribner	80	160	280	400
Doyle	64	144	256	400

Also, I felt it would be beneficial to compare standing tree volumes where most landowners sell standing timber. I chose to compare a 12" 1 log (16'), 16" 1 1/2 log (or 24'), 20" 2 log (or 32'), and 24" 3 log (or 48') stems.

	12"	16"	20"	24"
International	56	143	296	590
Scribner	48	129	262	550
Doyle	30	100	220	490

continued on next page

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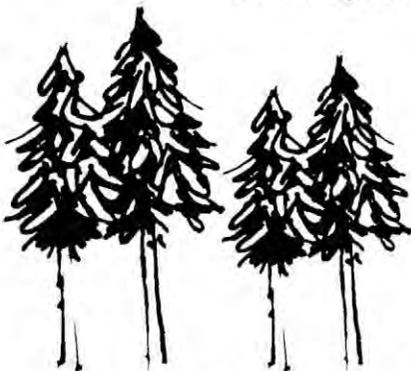
When Ken Lancaster was the Forest Service Area Representative, he and I tried to have International 1/4" Log Rule classified as the legal rule for New York (and New England). We failed! There was too much opposition to change, so the confusion continues. In my opinion, International 1/4" rule is the fairest to the landowner for obvious reasons.

Further, it could be said to discourage high-grading because it does not discourage cutting small trees. Often the small trees are the runts that should be cut to encourage the larger, same age, faster growing trees to grow even better. The argument often used is that discriminating against small diameter trees prevents overcutting, but I don't agree. It may, perhaps, discourage good utilization of smaller logs and does recognize the fact that small logs are less efficient for the mill to process. If New York had one log rule and everybody scaled logs the same, life would be simpler.

For most forest owners, having timber marked, scaled and sold on competitive bid assures the owner that fair market price is being paid. An independent consulting forester paid for services rendered, not on commission or percentage of what is sold, is probably the closest thing to an impartial scaler for most forest owners.

In regard to trucking, if a trucker is used to being paid on the basis of International Rule and the owner wanting to have the logs trucked, say, on Doyle Rule, I would bet it would not take the trucker long to raise the rates to reflect the difference in scale.

—Michael Greason
Consulting Forester



NYFOA 2000 Fall Conference

September 22 - 24

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See the registration information in the July/August issue of *The New York Forest Owner*, call (518) 798-0248 or check the website at www.nyfoa.org.

Childhood

I would like to go back:

There were vital veins of water
Running, halting, curving
Across the vibrant body of earth,
Settling with grace in bright pools,
Alight with the glow of sun
That wove its path of brilliance
Across, above, and around
The grassy lanes and infant trees,
Finally to be shuttered,
Voided by elders' rampant growing.

The day was a passage divorced from time
Into contests of sun and rain
And the whisperings of growing things;
Nights were but fleeting shadows,
Whims quickly dreamed away,
Wrapping the forest, the sleeping waters
And all the rocky, climbing hills
Into a blanket endless and dark,
An interlude quick as a thought,
Flung aside at break of day.

But the being I was is gone
Like a speck in the whirlwind
Of relentless, unforgiving time;
The walls of years cannot be climbed.

I can never go back.

—Dorothy S. Darling
Odessa, NY

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Seed and Cone Insects

DOUGLAS C. ALLEN

Over the past several years, my column has touched on a variety of tree pests that occupy a wide range of habitats on or in woody plants. Very little has been said, however, about seed and cone insects. Most species in this category are very small, and the damage they cause is not obvious. Nevertheless, seed and cone insects are interesting because they illustrate how trees truly are susceptible to insect activity “from the cradle to the grave” and, further, this group demonstrates the ingenious manner in which insects have exploited a wide range of habitats.

Another curious feature of this group is the fact that the seed and cone-feeding behavior is widespread throughout the insect world. It occurs in seven insect Orders; for example, moths (Lepidoptera), beetles (Coleoptera), true bugs (Hemiptera), flies (Diptera), and

wasps (Hymenoptera). The most serious pests in other major feeding groups such as defoliators, inner-bark borers, woodborers, shoot and tip insects, etc., belong to only one or two Orders. The term “Order” refers to a broad level of taxonomic classification that encompasses closely related families.

Significance – members of this group first earned a reputation as important tree pests three or four decades ago when forestry in many parts of North America began to depend on seed orchards as a reliable source of abundant, high quality seed for important commercial tree species. Seed orchards are plantations managed specifically for production of large amounts of genetically superior seed of known geographic origin desired for extensive reforestation efforts.



Figure 1 White spruce cones infested by a coneworm. Note accumulation of silk and frass.

Additionally, a few insect species can inhibit or nearly eliminate seed production in natural stands which, in turn, may prevent desired stand regeneration following silvicultural treatments.

The Seed – it should not be surprising to learn that insects have exploited tree seeds as a source of food. Energy in the form of fats, carbohydrates and proteins required by the

continued on next page



Figure 2 White pine cone beetle .



Figure 3 Aborted first-year cone of white pine infested by cone beetle. Note accumulation of pitch at cone base where beetle entered and expelled frass (arrows).

plant embryo during early stages of development are stored in the “meat” (endosperm) of a seed or nut. The chemical composition of these food reserves varies by tree species. Pine seeds, for example, are relatively high in fats and oils, while acorns are relatively high in carbohydrates.

Examples – over the years, cone-bearing trees (pine, spruce, fir) have received the most attention in terms of damage caused by seed destroying insects. This concern can be attributed, in large measure, to the commercial significance of these softwoods. Oak is probably the best known example for a broadleaved species besieged by seed insects.

The most important group of cone pests in seed orchards throughout North America are the caterpillar stages of medium sized moths in the genus *Dioryctria* (dye-oh-rick-tree-ah), known as coneworms. Typically, accumulations of frass (dried fecal pellets) mixed with silk appear on the outer surface of an infested cone (Fig. 1).

Most of our commercially valuable conifers like Douglas fir, spruces, and pines are susceptible to a diverse complex of insects. Natural production of eastern white pine seed is often severely reduced by the white pine cone beetle (Fig. 2). This insect

belongs to the bark beetle family, but it breeds and feeds inside cones and not in the inner-bark as the family name suggests. While working in some white pine stands in St. Lawrence Co. this summer, I noticed many green, unopened cones on the ground (Fig. 3) – a telltale sign of this pest. Instead of completing two years on the tree as is normal for healthy cones, infested cones drop after the first year and provide an overwintering site for the beetle.

A large variety of insects feed on acorns throughout the range of oak. This damage can be a major deterrent to oak regeneration in some regions. A single genus of weevils (*Curculio*) (kur-cue-lee-oh), for example, contains 22 species that have been reared from acorns. Infestation rates vary with oak species and region, but in some collections of red oak over 90% of the mast is destroyed by these beetles (Fig. 4).

Several years ago Lew Staats, manager of Cornell’s Uihlein Sugar Maple Research-Extension Field Station, brought to my attention insect damage to sugar maple seed in one of his experimental plantations of “sweet trees.” The culprit turned out to be a very small moth, the caterpillar stage of which hollowed out individual maple seeds (Fig. 5).

Pest management – only in seed orchards do these pests warrant control with synthetic organic insecticides. Under these conditions the area to be treated is isolated, tree crowns are accessible and investment costs are high. In natural stands, a pest like the white pine cone beetle can best be dealt with by working silvicultural activities around high pest populations. For example, when aborted cones are abundant (i.e., the beetle population is high) and natural regeneration is not well established, wait for a good seed year before cutting. ▲

This is the 52nd 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>.

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Figure 4 Weevil larva that has eaten contents of an acorn.



Figure 5 Caterpillar in sugar maple seed. The seed (wings removed) is hollow because the content of both halves has been consumed.

JOURNAL OF A SMALL CONIFER PLANTING

(An Amateur Approach)

PATRICK H. KELLY

Nearly thirty years ago we decided to plant a few trees south and west of our house to partially cut the blasts of the winter winds. We chose white spruce. Why? I don't really know. Perhaps thinking of a few Christmas trees in the years ahead to help defray the tax burden. It proved a good choice. We ordered the trees and arranged for use of a transplanter. It would be a three or four month wait before the arrival of the trees. You must consider all this business was new to us at the time.

In due time, late April or early May, the trees arrived. The weather was great so we figured to get right at the job. Not quite. No planter, we had to wait our turn. On the tree bags it says to store in a cool place, don't expose to sunlight or wind and a lot of other don'ts. Read further. It also says if you can't plant right away to heel them in. This translates into digging a six or eight inch wide and deep trench, putting in the seedlings (roots of course) and covering the roots with back fill. We were learning.

Eventually our turn with the planter came. It looked like several evenings of work ahead. Using a little bribery, our daughters Anne and Sue "volunteered" to help. This was a three person operation. Finally with the girls safely in the seats, a two foot section of steel rail tied to the back for added weight, we were in business. We couldn't believe how little time it took to transplant the couple of thousand trees. When we finished, just before dark the girls asked, "Got any more trees for tomorrow night Dad? That was fun." Suspecting the girls were having fun, the boys (Mike and Tim) wanted to get into the act. Mike insists they also took a few turns around the piece. Making work look like fun goes

a long way in getting help from your kids. In a way, I was kind of sorry we didn't have more trees. We did put in more in subsequent years, but that's another story.

The next few years were benign neglect for the planting. Each spring we did stick in a few replacements for the trees that died. Surprisingly, few died. A rough count gave us a ninety percent plus livability rate. Actually the replacements were not all white spruce. We now have Douglas fir, white pine, Scotch pine and Norway spruce interspersed in the planting. Not exactly a pure stand. Although unplanned, the interspersed varieties provided an opportunity to observe and compare their growth and adaptation.

Years three through eight, grasses and wild flowers were taller than the trees. Golden rod, milkweeds, asters, to name a few, seemed to dominate. A real weed patch to the casual observer. Closer inspection would reveal carefully woven tiny nests. Some on the ground, some fastened between the swaying stems of plants. We had to watch our step. Pheasants scurrying into the dense cover didn't go unnoticed. We weren't above harvesting a few birds during the season. Mike, our oldest son, had at this time completed the hunter safety training course, obtaining his first license. Walking slowly, three or four tree rows apart, we never failed to put up a few birds before reaching the end of the planting. We never had pheasant under glass, but Mary made it real palatable.

About year five we noticed a few rabbit tracks in the snow around the planting. The next season we observed more. We had mixed emotions over this situation, as our vegetable garden and orchard are close by. Wait and watch. Perhaps some rabbit population control. Rabbit for supper once in a while in late fall or early winter made a nice change in the menu. Ironically, now if the snow inhibits the rabbit's search for food, we provide some pellets. An ulterior motive we hope may keep them from the roses and shrubs. White clover in the grass ways alongside the planting seems to appeal to rabbits more than cabbage.

By year eight some of the trees were six feet plus tall. One beautiful October afternoon most of the family strolled out to the planting to select the first Christmas tree. The selection process took some time, but finally the winner (or loser) was tagged. December was a way in the future, but we would not have to endure foul weather searching for our tree. There was one draw back. The tree was almost white with milk weed seed. A mental note for next year or the year after, if we want to thin and sell a few trees we will have



Example of bird damage to leader on Plantation Norway spruce, Summer 1996.

to mow before those milkweed pods open.

The next summer, after whetting up the old hand scythe, the mowing started. The dense wall of stalky, rank vegetation, some rising nearly as high as my head, was somewhat intimidating. The first hour lets you know what kind of physical shape you're in. Objectively, or is it subjectively, an hour or two swinging the scythe each evening can work wonders on the waist line. It gets to be a challenge. A few evenings finishes the job. I note the beautiful chrysalis and let stand the milkweed bearers. Soon enough to chop them down after the Monarchs take wing. Birds nests, some occupied, have to be watched for. The mowing seems to be going pretty well until the tip of the scythe slices through a yellow jacket nest. Before you know what is happening they have nailed you four or five times. You make a quick retreat for the Raid can.

Year ten we cut our first Christmas trees for sale. We wonder if our trees are up to market standards. People seem to like them, so they must be okay. Besides our price is right. A judicious pruning might improve some. Two weeks and we have sold our quota. Remember this is a thinning rather than a Christmas tree operation. Grandparents hobbling up the drive through the snow and ice to help the kids pick out the right tree gave us some anxious moments. After the



Mary Kelly "sticking in" replacements.

second year we ceased the Christmas tree sales. It wasn't worth a law suit. We met and talked with a lot of fine people, really the Christmas spirit.

Through the remainder of December and into January when time and weather permitted we made a light pruning. This was primarily to balance some of the more lopsided trees and establish top leaders. The planting was beginning to sustain considerable bird damage to the upper new growth in June each year. More and more birds were establishing nesting territories in the planting. Unfortunately the new tender growth just isn't strong enough to support cock robins swaying in the wind. A month later the new growth is strong enough but it is too late. Robins, blackbirds, grackles, mourning doves, blue jays, flickers, crows, all kinds of sparrows and many small birds we can't really identify flit from bough to bough.

The mowing continues, diminishing each year. By year fifteen most of the trees are too large for Christmas trees, although we manage to find a few for family and friends. The branches of the smaller trees nearly touch while the larger ones are so intergrown it is near impossible to walk between them. Tree height is now eight

continued on page 20

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Journal (Continued from page 19)

to sixteen feet. The lower branches are beginning to die for lack of sunlight.

We read and reread the extension bulletins on conifer plantation management. Especially Bulletin #867. How is thinning accomplished? It is now difficult to see where the Christmas trees were removed. Where do you start, when you can't walk through this jungle? We procrastinate. Let them get a little more height, how about self pruning? Time passes. The tallest trees are now about twenty feet high and I have reached retirement. From my paying job that is. This seems like a good time to get at the thinning job, they say you should remain active. We decide to prune first, up to six feet or so above the ground. We leave the outside rows un-pruned as per Bulletin #867. Some of the smaller trees we don't touch at all. The pruning was completed last winter. We only prune in the dormant season and mostly dead branches. The little twenty inch bow saw works great for this.

Year twenty five we had to start making the hard choices. Which tree to remove and which tree to save? The planting just isn't like that sketch in the bulletin with its neat little dots, X's and letters. However, the sketch in #867 proved a valuable guide. Procrastination aside, on a crisp autumn morning, thinning finally got under way. It always seemed the best trees grew side by side or opposite one another.

continued on page 21

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Trying to remove every other tree alternately, consistently did not quite work out. Of course time on the job has to fit in with all the other comings and goings. Trees are very patient, they will be there waiting for us. Then too, the snow is just getting too deep to continue the work. A few more seasons will see the thinning completed.

"Labor intensive," a term you hear bandied about today, could no doubt be applied to this job, contrary to the "capital intensive" terminology referring to a processor doing the thinning. The labor had to do with falling or is it felling a tree only eighteen or twenty feet tall, branches intertwined with its neighbors on all sides. The capital involved a small chain saw and the old Ford tractor, homemade winch and a hundred feet of cable. Cut off the tree, hook the cable around the butt, wind the cable, snaking the tree to the edge of the planting for "processing." Well, anyway capital and labor working together gets the job done.

What to do with the cut trees? Good question, no good answer. We remove the branches to a top diameter of an inch and a half, piling the brush. Utilizing the beam machine and chain saw we cut four by fours, five or six feet long out of the butts. The poles we can use for temporary fence posts. A chipper would be nice but too "capital intensive."

At dusk as we gather up the tools, mourning doves, singly, by twos, threes and four or more glide into the trees. The planting is their winter roosting habitat. Droppings sprinkle the forest floor along with a pile of feathers here and there. The owls have young to feed.

From observing the delicate print of the hunting weasel on the fresh winter snow to the new different summer blossom that Peterson identifies for us, the planting is continual change. Through the years this small conifer planting has been a most enjoyable, instructive experience for the whole family. An inexpensive environmental asset a few yards from our back door. 

Patrick Kelly resides in Venice Center, NY. He is a member of the Cayuga chapter of NYFOA and is a Master Forest Owner.

Review of Section 480-A

HENRY KERNAN

Our senate and assembly in Albany have before them to consider, and perhaps accept, at least six changes in the present forest tax law. Section 480-A of the real property tax code exempts 80 percent of the levy on forest properties of 50 acres and more. That limit excludes 85 percent of the state's half a million or so forest owners and 4.5 million acres of timberland.

Furthermore the law has seriously eroded the tax base of municipalities with much forest but little else to tax. For all the exemptions, forest owners see cumbersome provisions and ferocious penalties for withdrawal, for converting forest land to other uses, and for non-compliance with a detailed management plan. Only five percent of the eligible forest land has been enrolled since the law's enactment in 1974. Proposals for change are numerous and recurring. Their many forms and their failures suggest both dissatisfaction and uncertainty as to where a better law might go.

But why special tax treatment for forested land? The answer lies with how we assess real property and with supreme importance of forests to the liveableness of our planet.

Real property taxes are annual payments assessed on market values at the highest and best use. Forest properties do not lend themselves to that system as do residential and commercial properties. Few of the properties in New York can have annual income. The volume and market value of their timber cannot be known to assessors and do not appear in their calculations. Sellers of forest land do not receive less for having stripped every last piece of saleable wood from their forest land before sale, and have every reason to do so.

The present system, which we inherited from pioneer days, understates the case for retention as forest

and open space and overstates the case for conversion to uses widely perceived as undesirable, especially in critically important watersheds such as the Catskills. Results are forest parcels uncongenial to logging and wildlife, and frequent changes of ownership. The latter encourages overcutting at the time of sale and breaks the links between owner and woodland which are often the cause of careful management.

Proposals to lessen the tax burden on forest owners through a refundable

continued on page 22

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Section 480-A (continued from page 21)

state income tax credit as an incentive to retain ownership may do no more than make life easier for them while they retain the land and bring them higher prices when they choose to sell, and thus more motive to sell. Probably the distortions and inconsistencies of the real property tax as applied to forest land do more harm than the level of taxation as such. Neighboring states, Massachusetts and Connecticut, tax their forest lands at far lower rates than does New York. The management of their forests is no better.

The strongest case for taxing forests on some other basis than the present one with its distortions and falsities lies with their environmental values. They are public assets, whose retention is of vital concern to present and future generations. Moreover,

except for the volume and quality of the timber they produce, forests carry on their functions very much alike regardless of such factors as ownership, composition and whatever.

If anything is to be gained by tax reforms for forest and open space, they should be applied as rapidly and extensively as can reasonably be done. Adding piece after piece over the years where 14.5 acres of private timberland are in question will not do. A flat tax uniform on all forest and open space is applied in nine states and is well worth considering in New York. ▲

Henry Kernan is a consulting forester in world forestry, a Master Forest Owner and a regular contributor to 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, (315) 655-4110 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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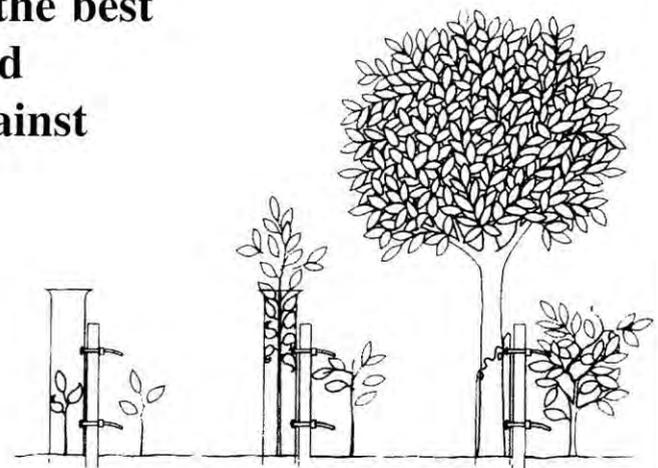
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