

# The New York Forest Owner

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**THE NEW YORK  
FOREST OWNERS  
ASSOCIATION**

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**COVER:** Pictured is the completed access road built on NYFOA member Robert Johnson's property near Gouverneur, NY. See page 6 for an article describing the building of this "swamp road." Photo courtesy of Robert Johnson.



# From The President

Have you ever hurried along as part of a group toward an airport gate or rail gate? Many individuals all set on a common goal – catch the train before it leaves; get to the gate of a connecting flight. In a way, NYFOA chapters are like that – a number of individuals, some know each other, some do not, but all moving to achieve a goal to be better informed on the many aspects of forest management, and to reach other landowners who do not yet realize the full range of opportunities and options



for their woodlots.

Have you ever hurried along as part of a group in an airport on a moving sidewalk? Each of you is expending

the same amount of time and effort, and your baggage is just as heavy as if you were walking on the tarmac, but you are getting further for that effort. You get to the gate sooner, see your family earlier, or have time for phone calls or reading.

Our chapters are the many individuals working tirelessly toward their goal – a workshop, woods walk, landowner conference, or newsletter deadline. As I've emphasized many times before, NYFOA would be nothing without our force of committed volunteers.

We might liken the NYFOA Board of Directors' job to the moving sidewalk. The Board can provide the kinds of support that will make the efforts of our volunteers even more productive and satisfying. Our core volunteers are stretched to the limit, and while their time and effort are cheerfully given, even greater satisfactions and results are possible from their effort.

All analogies break down at some point, but the force of volunteers, propelled even further than would otherwise be the case as a result of state level efforts, might be one way to visualize the opportunities possible for NYFOA.

In the last issue of the *Forest Owner*, we reported that your Board of Directors voted in October to move toward a part time executive director position for the New York Forest Owners Association. A paper called "Rationale, Responsibilities and Expectations for the Executive Director" was developed as the basis for the Board's study.

On January 27, 2001 the Board of Directors unanimously established a screening committee, charging it with advertising the position, interviewing candidates, and ultimately recommending an individual to the Board. While the timetable is understandably uncertain at this time, it is hoped that a candidate can be selected by late summer. Vice President Jim Minor will chair the screening committee, which also includes Peter Smallidge, Pat Ward, Chuck Winship, and Paul Yarbrough.

The announcement for the executive director position appears on page 20 of this issue. If you know of persons who might be interested, please bring the announcement to their attention.

This is a huge step for NYFOA, for private landholders in New York, and for the millions of acres under their control. The challenge of identifying the right individual and working through the initial transition period may be difficult. However, the potential rewards will be tremendous for New York's privately held forest resources.

–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.

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# What's Up With Tree Planting

JOHN SOLON

**T**ree planting continues to be a popular stewardship activity that accounts for thousands of seedlings planted each year across New York, which is a little amazing since 62% of the state is forested. Gone is the day of multi-acre plantations but here to stay is the establishment of small plantings that cover the realm of conservation management activities. While many plant for traditional projects such as wildlife, erosion control and forest management, new projects such as riparian protection, native plant establishment, brownfield recovery, carbon sequestration and bio-engineering are attracting new participants to the annual spring ritual of vegetation establishment.

Regardless of the size and objective, it is necessary to have a planting plan. Species selection must be in harmony with site conditions. What is the soil type and how far below the surface is bedrock, hardpan, or the watertable?

The type of planting stock to use depends on many factors. Seedlings, transplants, tubelings, containers, balled and burlap are some of the terms used in nursery catalogues. Always purchase your seedlings from a well established nursery that can tell you the seed source of the stock you are purchasing. Buying from a local nursery does not guarantee that the plants are from a northeast seed source. You need to question a professional as to what type of stock will meet

your needs and your budget. Plant spacing is determined by species selection and project objectives. If the site is to be mowed, what equipment are you going to use and will it fit between the planting rows? Are you going to need a road to access the area with motorized equipment?

These are just a few items to consider when creating a planting plan. There are professionals from many government agencies and private environmental organizations that can help you with your project and most of the time the information is free for the asking. The important thing to remember is that you are improving the environment through your conservation planting and above all have fun and learn from the experience. Make planting a rite of spring and if you don't have room to plant, perhaps you have a friend or neighbor who could use an extra pair of hands. If you need help with your planting, consider asking a youth group from a school, church, 4 H or scouting group. It's never too early to learn good stewardship. ▲

*John Solon is Supervising Forester, NYS DEC and based at the Saratoga Tree Nursery.*

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**O**n a beautiful fall morning over 35 Western Finger Lakes Chapter NYFOA members assembled in the suburbs of rural Barkertown (Livingston County). The purpose of this assembly was to gain more insight on the analysis of a stand of trees for a thinning prescription, marking, and cutting. The Dieter family of Rush and Barkertown were the very gracious hosts of this event. Prior to the workshop, Harry Dieter, husband of the owner, Pat Dieter, and Billy Morris, DEC forester, laid out 5 plots for the demonstration.

Under the very keen eye of Mark Keister, DEC Forester, the exercise proceeded with the procedure to measure, tally and mark the plots for thinning. Also in attendance and offering much needed assistance was Cory Figuerido and Scott Graham of

# Be A FORESTER For A Day *Thinning Workshop*

BILLY MORRIS

Future Forestry Consultants; Stan Stek, private consultant; and Mark Gooding, DEC forester.

The group was divided into smaller groups and each group took a plot. They measured the basal area, made the stand prescription, and marked the trees for cutting. Harry Dieter, Mark Keister and Stan Stek volunteered to cut the marked trees.

The beauty of this program was in the participants doing the work and seeing the before and after of the thinning process. We were very fortunate that Harry and Pat allowed us to use their property for such an enterprise and were willing to live with the consequences. Attendance was limited to 25 participants – more than 50 applied. Another similar workshop is planned for the future.

This exercise would not have been possible without the immense cooperation of all who were involved. This is what makes our organization so unique and useful. Thank you to all. 🌲

*Billy Morris is a Forester with the NYS DEC in their Bath, NY office. This article originally appeared in the Western Finger Lakes Chapter newsletter. Photos courtesy of June Labell.*



Participants take part in a thinning exercise during the "Forester For A Day" program at Pat and Harry Dieter's property. Consulting Forester Stan Stek is wearing the hard hat.



DEC Forester Mark Keister (far right) and other participants in the "Forester For A Day" program inspect an American Chestnut Tree.

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# Poles, Pallets & Plastic—

## *The Building of a Swamp Road*

ROBERT JOHNSON

**A**t last, my own woodlot to manage! In 1990, just 11 miles from my home, a woodlot had been listed for sale. The lot consisted mostly of young trees, but some mature ones, as well as turkeys and a growing deer population. 108.5 acres—true, some of it was treeless floodplain—but enough to cut firewood, do thinning jobs, and eventually sell logs.

\$14,000 later, it was mine. Cheap, even for this area of depressed land prices, partly because it had been logged heavily in 1975 and partly because of the swamp that lay between it and the road. Flooded in spring and fall, the hummocks of soft maple, black ash and elm were surrounded by squishy spots that barely firmed up in a dry summer.

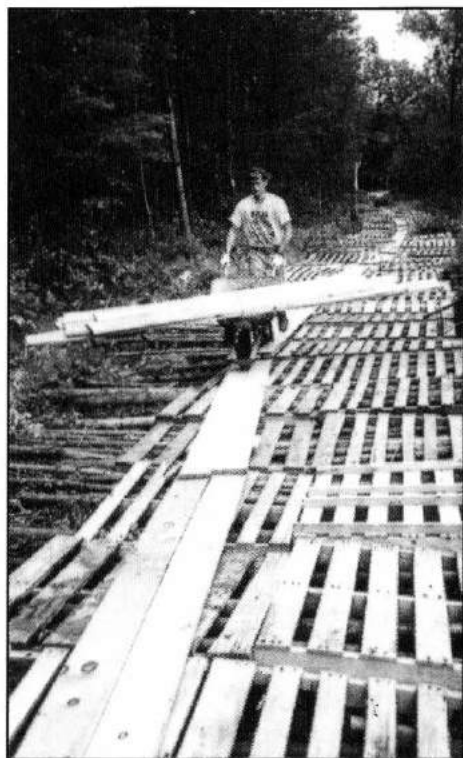
Right away I signed up with the USDA for a thinning program and had several acres at the far end of the property marked. I soon found out what a chore it was to pack my chainsaw, gas, oil, lunch, water, hard hat, and gloves and carry across the swamp and along the ridge which extended three quarters of a mile. The dream of an access road was born.

By the summer of '92 I was ready to move ahead. A check with the St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation office showed that the area I had to cross was officially a wetland. "You'll never get a permit to build a road across a wetland" was the general opinion of those to whom I talked, but an application to the DEC Regional Office in Watertown proved otherwise. One month after completing the forms I had my permit. But not the approval of the US Army Corps of Engineers. More information was requested, and was sent. Finally, they decided that a farm/forest road didn't need their consent after all. By late October there were no legal obstacles to building my road.

A plan took shape over the winter of '92-'93. My driveway from the county road to the edge of the swamp had been made by scalping off the sod of the field through which it passed and laying down a layer of crushed limestone from a local quarry. Passable at first, the stone soon was pressed down into the clay and the road grew slippery. I began to read of geotextile fabric, and wished I'd known about it

in time for the contractor to put down a layer before trucking in the crushed stone on my driveway. Somehow, I would use geotextile fabric in my swamp road.

As I cut the small and midsize trees out of the road's path, I limbed them and laid them crossways for a corduroy base. It didn't take long to see that I did not have the number of trunks needed to solidly fill the 500 feet I had to cover. The possibility of using pallets for a base came to mind, and I found a local worker who could get sound used ones free from the mill where he worked. Nearly every day he'd bring me 15 or 20 in his truck. I paid him \$1.00 each for the trucking; eventually, he brought me 320.



*Summer of 1993; road is under construction. Pallets are being laid firmly on the cross logs.*

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In the spring of '93 I took the pallets to the road site and sawed out the thin crosspieces on the bottom, leaving the heavier pieces to which the top slats were nailed. Laid three wide, the pallets sat firmly on the cross logs, to which I'd added some imported cedar poles. Next to be laid was a sheet of 12' wide geotextile fabric, then the surface material.

Eight to ten inches of crushed limestone from a marble quarry were spread on top of the poles, pallets, and fabric. The contractor's 19-ton loader/backhoe was easily supported by the compacted surface. He tried, just once, backing a fully loaded dump truck out onto the partly completed road and placing the load directly instead of having to move the material a yard at a time from a stockpile at the starting point. It was scary! The loaded truck set up a distinct ripple in the road surface and was quickly driven off. 865 tons of stone later, the road was completed, one ton at a time.

Sitting right on the surface of the swamp, the road has not sunk or shifted any since its construction. Flooded every spring and sometimes in a rainy fall, it drains quickly and remains solid. In one area, where the spring runoff forms a visible current the water passes underneath the road surface without being slowed. In what



Late summer 1993. Robert Johnson drives his ATV on his newly completed access road.

looked like an old streambed a pair of 24" steel culverts was placed. They may not have been needed since water moves so easily through the open substructure.

A few small sunken spots have appeared in places where the fabric was torn during the placement of surface material. They have been easily filled with a fabric patch and some crushed stone. Many trips later with my pickup or ATV and utility trailer, the road has

proved its value. With a steep hill as a backstop, it even makes a great 200-yard shooting range. ▲

Robert Johnson resides in Gouverneur, NY and is a member of the Northern Adirondack Chapter of NYFOA.



The spreading of the geotextile fabric over the log poles and pallets is seen during construction.

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# Revisiting a Forest After 20 Years

MICHAEL C. GREASON

Recently I led a Capital District Chapter woodswalk on the Cheeshill State Forest in Rensselaerville, Albany County. I thought State Forests that are actively managed for timber and associated benefits would provide an opportunity for a woodswalk to show several decades of forest management outcomes. Since 1980, I had not spent time on the property other than passing by and seeing some sales in progress. That State Forest is a 2,818 acre reforestation area that was acquired to offer a work opportunity for the Civil Conservation Corp in the early thirties. The lands so acquired had to be at least 600 acres and

with 50% open land to provide places for the corp to plant trees.

The properties that were bought by the state tended to be subsistence farms that were not able to generate a living to those trying to farm them. This particular grouping of farms was hilltop, shallow, heavy soils, overlaying shale. The existing woodlots at the time were patches surrounded by open farmland and thus exposed to wind and subject to repeated ice damage.

Upon being hired by the former NYS Conservation Department in 1969, I was responsible for managing State Forests along with my responsibilities to offer forestry services to Forest Practice

Act (FPA) Cooperators in the counties I worked. Cheeshill State Forest (then Albany-Schoharie Reforestation Area #1) was one of "my" State Forests. I was given a pretty free hand in managing those properties and I had a good time covering them quite thoroughly during the decade of the seventies. With the markets available at the time, I had wood product harvests in every stand that offered the opportunity. In addition, inmates at Camp Cass, a Division for

Youth correctional facility on the property, were used to carry out work projects, primarily pre-commercial thinning and pruning of the plantations. Most of that property received some silvicultural treatment during the decade I managed the forest.

During my later stint in the Albany office of DEC, I witnessed a significant decrease in staffing for traditional forestry programs. As staffing became smaller, more emphasis was placed on unit management plans for the forest preserves and urban forestry, while service forestry and state forest management received less attention. New staffing was targeted to special programs, such as the New York City watershed, northern ice damage, and so forth. The wood product sales program continued to be a high priority and the staff dedicated to that task sincerely tried to meet those targets.

We gathered for the walk on a raw October Sunday afternoon. By the time everyone arrived, those of us who had come early thought we had marbles rattling around in our mouths. The walk was (fortunately!) planned to be a series of short walks with driving from stand to stand to cover a variety of sites.

The first site visited was a red pine plantation that had been planted on a flat, shallow soil, abandoned field. In 1970, this stressed plantation was in danger of being infested by the Ips engraver beetle. During the 70's, I conducted two commercial thinnings and the stand has survived. It again needs to be thinned because the tops have closed in.

The second stand was an original woodlot that had been grazed until the state bought the property. I was not at all impressed when I first saw the stand, but the oil crisis of 1973 afforded the opportunity to weed the worst trees through firewood sales. Since I left in 1980, there has been a sawtimber sale there. Now, the present stand looks almost as ragged as it did in 1970. During the walk, I was too cold to think the situation through as to why this stand looked this way. On the way home, with the heater going, it came to me: the October sleet, snow, and wind storm of



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1987, and subsequent ice storms, had torn apart the crop trees I was trying to develop. Enough time has now elapsed so the wounds have mellowed in appearance. Repeated attacks by nature will probably never allow this stand to develop into prime timberland. This site will never deserve intensive management, but it will produce periodic income to the state and some hardwood browse for deer and mast for turkeys.

We moved on to a red pine plantation that had been clearcut in 1968 in response to an Ips engraver beetle infestation. There I had intended to show some experimental direct seeding research. In the early seventies, there were some interesting regeneration techniques to compare. Some plots were seeded without site preparation. Others were prepared by scraping the litter and brush to the sides of the plots to prepare a bare seed bed. The seedlings that arose were much taller at the fringes of these plots than in the centers due to organic matter and nutrients found in the outer soil as opposed to the depleted soil in the centers. Competition had been less a factor than fertility and moisture. I was not expecting a thick stand of Norway spruce at least twenty feet tall, but what I wanted to show couldn't have been seen unless we had stilts. (That was one of those times when I realize I am getting older when the foot tall seedlings are now many times taller than me).

The next stop was a red pine/Norway spruce plantation on a northerly facing slope. The site is better with deeper soils and better drainage. This stand has been repeatedly thinned and I wanted to show the understory of natural Norway spruce regeneration. This stand needs thinning to keep the process going, but the carpet of seedlings I left in 1980 is now sapling size and the residual overstory has fine crop trees growing above. This plantation would not be characterized as a biological desert as many plantations are called. The thick understory provides good cover and an abundant cone crop producing food for a variety of wildlife. This stand could provide repeated opportunities for wood sales. The logging damage to the

understory will act as a mechanical thinning, allowing the understory to develop into the future forest when the last of the original plantation is removed.

Another surprise came to me when we walked into a stand where I had made a shelterwood cut for firewood to regenerate oak. The sale had removed all the coarse trees, beech and ironwood, in hopes of gaining oak seedlings. In the early nineties, I took a silviculturist with the Forest Service there to see if the plan had worked. What we found was an impenetrable beech thicket. Deer had browsed all the oak and the beech sprouted prolifically. Department foresters had another timber sale in the stand and now the beech thicket has drastically been reduced. There appears to be some hope for this stand even though there is not a potential to become prime timberland on these shallow soils.

Our final stop was a Norway spruce plantation that was last thinned in 1974. Joe Hanley (now with International Paper) and I marked this area the last day Joe worked for the department. It is also a north-facing slope and a good site for the spruce. This stand had been pruned by the Camp Cass inmates in the early 70's and thinned mechanically with a large skidder-mounted shearhead after Joe and I had finished the marking. The stand would again benefit from a thinning to concentrate on removing those trees that were damaged by skidding in the last sale. But that fall day it had the feel of a cathedral with the tall,

dark, straight trees that surrounded us. The trees buffered the winds which pleased us and yet, as with all spruce plantations, the dark shade contributed to our chill. So, I think we were all relieved when I announced we could call it a day and head for the shelter of our warm vehicles.

I enjoyed returning to a place that I had worked many years ago. I saw opportunities for further management to take place, and I hope that DEC will get the necessary human resources to allow that to occur. DEC foresters selling wood off state land generates income to the state that far exceeds the cost of having them there while they are improving the forest. In fact, an increased state forest sales program could help fund increased private forestry assistance. Perhaps we as NYFOA members should articulate those facts to our state representatives. ▲

*Michael Greason is a Consulting Forester in Catskill, NY, a board member of NYFOA and a member of the Capital District Chapter.*

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CRAIG J. DAVIS

## Question:

The August 2000 edition of the Northern Logger and Timber Processor (NLTP) had an interesting letter to the editor on horse skidding. Tim White of Timberjack, Inc., argues that a horse puts 1,700 pounds on 78 square inches of shoe area and makes 15 trips to skid out the same weight of timber as a Timberjack 1440 forwarder. So a horse does more damage to the woods than a machine? Could one of your experts clarify the relative arguments of horse work and machine work in logging?

—Jim Martin

## Answer:

This is like many questions in forestry—there is no simple answer!

What was said in the letter to the NLTP is true in respect to compaction and productivity. The horse's hooves are relatively small in contact area. This results in a higher exerted pressure on the ground and "more" compaction. Horses can only skid a limited weight (e.g., 1000 to 1500 lb.) of logs at one time. A forwarder has a capacity of about 16,000 lb.

So what can we say about horses versus skidders or forwarders? The following summarize the situation:

Horses may be practical in partial cuts when removing a small volume per acre, such as a single tree selection prescription. Horses can use a narrower skid path than that required for machines. Horses generally are limited to slopes less than 10%. The maximum practical skidding distance for horses is about 1200 feet. Horses are very sensitive to temperature—hot weather can cause problems. Horses usually cannot skid logs through or over slash.

Because they are skidding logs, you can still have significant soil displacement or rutting caused by the movement of the logs over the soil surface when using horses. Generally, the cost per unit volume removed is highest for horse logging—this can result in a reduction in stumpage payment made to the landowner. Because of their low productivity (3 MBF per day) horses should be limited to relatively small cutting areas.

Rubber-tired skidders can handle most silvicultural prescriptions; however, cable skidders work better than grapple skidders in partial cuts. Skid trails are usually 6 to 8 feet in width. Generally, skidders can operate on slopes less than 35%. The maximum practical skidding distance for skidders is about 3000 feet. Skidders can usually work in most weather conditions. Because they are skidding logs, you can have significant soil displacement or rutting caused by the movement of the logs over the soil surface. Skidding tree-length logs can result in higher level of residual stand damage. Compaction can be reduced through the use of larger tires—but this requires that the skid trails be wider.

Forwarders can handle most silvicultural prescriptions. Trails are usually 8 to 10 feet in width. Generally, forwarders can operate on slopes less than 20%. The maximum practical forwarding distance is about 5000 feet.

Forwarders can generally work in most weather conditions. Because they are carrying the logs, there usually is not a problem with soil

displacement. However, rutting and compaction can be a problem on weak/wet soils. This can be reduced if slash is placed on the trails and the forwarders drive over the slash. Forwarders cause minimal (or no) residual stand damage.

The bottom line....each method has advantages and disadvantages. In reality, the quality of the logging job that a land owner gets depends more on the attitude and skill of the logger than on the method used to move logs from the stump to the landing. ▲

*Craig J. Davis is an Associate Professor, Forest Operation in the Faculty of Forestry and the Faculty of Environmental Resources and Forest Engineering at SUNY ESF in Syracuse, NY.*

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# NEWS & NOTES

## White Spruce Seedlings

On Saturday, May 5, 2001, from dawn to dark, white spruce seedlings will be distributed to all comers free of charge, in any number and size, from Henry Kernan's forest property. The address is 104 County Highway 40, South Worcester, NY 12197.

It will not be necessary to dig the seedlings because they germinate in May and need only be lifted by means of a garden fork, which will be available.

This year will be the 12<sup>th</sup> year such distributions have taken place, with more than 30,000 having been taken away.

For more information please contact Henry Kernan at (607) 397-8805.



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## Forest Management Update Available

The September 2000 issue of the Forest Management Update is available in the NYFOA office. It is a 42 page publication discussing the following topics:

- A Decade at a Crop Tree Demonstration Area.
- Survey of Breeding Birds at the Coopers Rock Crop Tree Demonstration Area.
- Estimating Costs for Precommercial Silvicultural Treatments in the Northeast.
- Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic.
- Agroforestry - What Is It? Can You Benefit From It?

If you would like a copy sent to you, please call the NYFOA office at 716-377-6060. There is a \$3.00 charge for shipping and handling. You may view this issue and others at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/na/morgantown/frm/perkey/fmu/fmutoc.htm>

## SAF 2000 Communications Award

The New York Society of American Foresters presented Mary Beth Malmshemer, our editor of *The New York Forest Owner*, with the Communications Award for 2000. This award is presented to deserving individuals or entities to recognize outstanding efforts to promote public understanding and appreciation of forest resources, management and stewardship.

Mary Beth has proven to be a great editor for the *Forest Owner* and also for *The New York Forester*, NYSAF's membership newsletter. NYFOA joins NYSAF in commending Mary Beth on receiving this prestigious award.

## A Guide to Internet Resources for Forest Landowners

The amount of web-based information available to Non-Industrial Private Forest landowners is impressive, but where to start? Even when you know what you're looking for, finding that information can be a time consuming process. Entering the word "Forestry"

on a search engine identifies more than 140,000 individual web sites. Forest landowners searching for internet based information may not be immediately successful in finding what they are looking for — or may not know that resources they'd be interested in knowing about or making use of are available.

*A Forest Landowner's Guide to Internet Resources: States of the Northeast* has been developed by the Forest Service to highlight those resources (documents, publications, fact sheets), and to contribute to the Forest Service's outreach to the computer-using part of our community. The guide is available at: <http://na.fs.fed.us/pubs/misc/ir/index.htm>. A printable, PDF version of the guide is also available at the same address. ▲

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# MANAGING THE EQUITY IN YOUR WOODLOT

RON CADIEUX

*The following article is being targeted to over 30,000 farmers within NY State to encourage them to view the management of their woodlots as an investment. However, the information is also applicable to forest land owners who are not farmers.*

**D**airy nutritionist and forest management disciple Bill Badgley was visiting a farmer client one day, when the client shared a problem with him. It seems a logger had repeatedly approached him with a proposal to harvest his wood lot. The logger promised revenue of \$18,000 from the harvest. But the farmer was concerned about the risks and quality of the job. Bill, who is himself a tree farmer and has successfully managed his own wood lot for 18 years, pleaded with the farmer to hire a professional forester to supervise the work.

Thankfully, Bill's client took his advice and hired a forester to mark the trees to be harvested, supervise the showing, put the sale out to bid, and

conduct the sale of the marked trees. The farmer, who was initially offered \$18,000 by the original logger, instead received over \$40,000, an increase of 222%, due to the expertise of a consultant forester. The cost of retaining the consultant forester was only \$1,200, just 3% of the gross receipts. In addition, the farmer has now put his wood lot under a forest management plan, which calls for additional harvests again and again!

As a farmer, have you heard or experienced similar situations? If so, and if you haven't seen this level of success, then this article is for you!

Forest management is basically the scheduling of the removal of certain trees at different intervals to achieve a sustainable growth of a forest. Identifying the specific selection of the trees to be removed before the harvest begins is called a prescription. If the goal of the landowner is to improve the health and vigor of the crop trees, the value of the forest will quickly increase in the equity accumulation per acre. If the goal of the forest owner is just to harvest until a

dollar value is ascertained, ignoring sustainable growth goals, the equity value per acre will be diminished.

The most critical question to address when designing a timber sale is when to harvest next. The answer is determined by the forest owner's goals in the forest management plan, but the timing of harvest and the selection of the trees to be harvested to meet these goals can only be identified by a professional forester. When forest owners are persuaded to over-harvest trees for the promise of additional revenues, the timing of the next harvest will be pushed back, sometimes for decades. "High grading" is a term given to removing only the best quality trees and leaving the poor quality trees. Usually the trees left from the high grading will not improve in grade or value over time. Once this occurs in the wood lot, the possibility of increased equity is nonexistent. Only professional foresters can design and implement a forest management plan to "manage the equity in your wood lot."

Two state organizations have just taken an important step to help farmers increase the opportunity to better manage their wood lots. On behalf of Mike Burns, Chair, and the entire Board of Directors of the New York Tree Farm System, I would like to congratulate Andrew Williamson, President, Tom Borden, Vice President and the Washington County Farm Bureau, for actively sponsoring and passing a statewide resolution to establish a partnership between the New York Farm Bureau and the New York Tree Farm System. This partnership will establish a communications network to reach over thirty thousand farmers who own 1,560,000 acres of forestland across New York State. One of the goals of this partnership is to encourage farmers to view the

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management of their wood lots as an investment and seek assistance from qualified professional foresters.

The first joint efforts between these two organizations to support this goal is to promote a new video called *Managing the Equity in Your Wood Lot*. Last year, over twenty ambitious volunteers including professional foresters, loggers, dairy nutritionists, dairy and vegetable farmers, videographers and many agency employees contributed their time and expertise to produce this twenty-eight minute video. The theme of the video is to promote sustainable forest management strategy for farmers and encourage them to view their wood lots as long term investments.


To obtain a copy of this video, contact your local Farm Bureau or DEC office.

To initiate your own forest management plan, call



your local DEC office and request an appointment with the Service Forester from your region. The DEC forester can construct a forest management plan or refer you to a Tree Farm Inspecting Forester. Eventually, you should request a list of professional foresters who are available to represent your interest in the long-term management of your property.

To become a member of the New York Tree Farm System, a farmer must have a written forest management plan. The forest management plan is developed by a professional forester and designed to meet the needs of the forest owner. We highly recommend membership in the New York Tree Farm

System. Applications for membership can be obtained at your local DEC office or by calling the Tree Farm office at 1-800-836-3566. 

*Ron Cadieux is a Senior Forester with the NYS DEC and a member of the Southeastern Adirondack Chapter of NYFOA.*

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### NYFOA Scholarship Fund

As of February 1, 2001, the NYFOA Endowed Scholarship Fund that is administered by the SUNY ESF College Foundation, Inc. has a fund balance of \$20,908.85.

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# Grey Towers: *The Estate of Gifford Pinchot*

HENRY KERNAN

Nearly forty years ago President Kennedy honored with his presence the village of Milford in the Pocono hills of northeastern Pennsylvania. The occasion was to recognize as a national historic landmark Grey Towers, the estate of Gifford Pinchot. This gift by his son to the U.S. Forest Service was an imposing mansion in the Norman-French style and 102 acres of grounds and forest. They were in poor shape after years of neglect and would have deteriorated even more before Grey Towers became a line item in the Forest Service budget and presaged the hopes of the presidential visit.

Much was made of the occasion, and those hopes were high. The plan was for a partnership with the Forest Service as proprietor and custodian and an independent, private foundation. The latter was to develop and operate at Grey Towers an institute for analysis, research, and knowledge of current problems of forestry and the environment in general.

The Pinchot Institute for Conservation now exists with private backing, offices and staff principally in Washington D.C., and with a field staff at Milford. Extensive restorations will be completed by autumn 2001 and Grey Towers will be ready for visitors.

The years of delay between the dedication in 1963 and the opening are due at least in part to the ambiguity and novelty of what was then being proposed. A moment came when the Forest Service had to take up or give up. Another reason for the delay was the \$18 million for renovations.

Nevertheless, the force to overcome inertia and expense and bring Grey Towers to life, to create a function and a vision for the Pinchot Institute, is the legacy of Gifford Pinchot himself. He had an astonishing ability to call attention to himself and his ideas even when he and they were wrong. Although considered to be a professional forester, he did not have a professional degree. He headed the Forest Service too short a time for his own and the Service's good.

Pinchot even managed to enhance his stature in ways that would have stultified a less commanding presence. He owed more to forestry than to end his tenure as chief forester in a quarrel over mines in Alaska. For years he preached the need to control timber harvesting on private lands to avoid a timber famine. He inherited thousands of acres of forest land around Grey Towers. In the words of his grandson, they are anything but a legacy of the good forest management he preached so vehemently to

others. In fact his forebears had a large hand in stripping the Poconos of their white pine timber.

A century ago James Pinchot, the father of Gifford, established the remnants of his family's forest lands as the Milford Experimental Forest of 1,400 acres. The Pennsylvania Natural Lands Trust holds the development rights. The right to scientific research and ecological restoration will be transferred to a non-profit organization, possibly the Pinchot Institute.

The Institute will thereby add a highly significant dimension to other activities and judgements. Presumably they will follow the thrust and tenor of Pinchot's concept of wise use of forest resources. If so, Grey Towers and 1,400 acres of forest are well placed and well timed to influence how we use those resources.

Like the Catskills, the Poconos are heavily forested and within weekend distance of metropolitan New York and New Jersey. The pattern was once farmland but is rapidly becoming second homes with small woodlands attached. The Milford Experimental Forest can be a working demonstration of the wise use Pinchot urged so long and hard.

Since his time, that concept has come under attack from groups and in a way that Pinchot did not envision. They contend that human welfare and even survival hinge upon retaining ecosystems in their pristine state, and restoring those not so pristine. Since no forest ecosystems exist in the world today uninfluenced by human activities, they are all degraded and create an imperative need to restore them.

That contention gains force and adherents in our highly technical and artificial lives. It is one of the critical issues of the present century, and one in whose resolution the legacy of Gifford Pinchot can take a large part. ▲

*Henry Kernan is a consulting forester in world forestry, a Master Forest Owner and a regular contributor to the Forest Owner.*





# TAX TIPS: *For Forest Landowners for 2000 Tax Year*

LARRY M. BISHOP

**H**ere is some information to keep in mind when you prepare your 2000 Federal income tax return for the 2000 tax year. This discussion is necessarily brief, and you should consult other sources for a more comprehensive treatment of the issues.

## Basis and Tax Records

Part of the price you receive from a timber sale is taxable income, but part is also your investment (i.e., basis) in the timber sold. Allocate your total costs of acquiring purchased forest land or the value of inherited forestland—among land, timber, and other capital accounts as soon as possible. Adjust this basis up for new purchases or investments and down for sales or other disposals. When you sell your timber, you can take a depletion deduction equal to [(Adjusted basis/ Total timber volume just before the sale) x (Timber volume sold)]. Good records include a written management plan and a map of your forestland. Keep records that support current deductions 6 years beyond the date the return is due. Keep records that support your basis 6 years beyond your period of ownership. Report basis and timber depletion on IRS Form T (Timber), Schedule B.

## Passive Loss Rules

The passive loss rules continue to be a real puzzle for forest landowners. This subject is too complex to cover in detail here, but what follows is a very brief summary. Under the passive loss rules, you can be classified in one of three categories: (1) investor, (2) passive participant in a trade or business, or (3) active participant (materially participating) in a trade or business.

The law's intent is that you are "materially participating" if your involvement is regular, continuous, and substantial; however, a low level of activity is adequate if that level is all that is required to sustain the trade or business. This means that record keeping is very important! To show material participation, landowners will need to keep records of all business transactions related to managing their timber stands. Likewise, it would be a good idea to keep records of other business-related activities such as land owner meetings attended, odometer readings to and from

meetings, canceled checks for registration fees, and copies of meeting agendas. Generally, you will get the best tax advantage if you are "materially participating" in a timber business because all management expenses, property taxes, and interest on indebtedness are fully deductible against income from any source. However, if you are "materially participating," you must dispose of your timber under the provisions of Section 631 to qualify for capital gains. (This means that you must sell your timber on a "pay-as-cut" or "cut and convert" basis, rather than lump sum). On the other hand, if you have considerable passive income (such as Conservation Reserve Program annual rental payments), it may be to your advantage to be considered "passive." Most of the discussion that follows applies to forest landowners who are "materially participating."

## Reforestation Tax Credit and Amortization

The reforestation tax credit and 7-year amortization is one of the best tax advantages for forest landowners. If you reforested during 2000, you can claim a 10-percent investment tax credit for the first \$10,000 you spent for reforestation during the tax year. In addition, you can amortize (deduct) all of your 2000 reforestation costs (up to \$10,000), minus half the tax credit taken, over the next 7 years (actually 8 tax years). **The election to amortize must be made on a timely tax return for the year in which the reforestation expenses were incurred.** Elect to amortize reforestation expenses on Form 4562. (Passive owners may or may not be eligible for the amortization and credit).

Here's how it works. Assume you spent \$4,000 to reforest a cut over tract in 2000. You claim a \$400 tax credit (10 percent of \$4,000) for 2000. You can also deduct 95 percent of these reforestation costs over the next 8 tax years. Due to a half-year convention you can only claim one-half of the annual amortizable portion for 2000. This means that on your 2000 tax return you can deduct one-half of  $(0.95 \times \$4,000/7)$  or \$271. For the next 6 tax years you can deduct  $(0.95 \times \$4,000/7)$  or \$543, and the remaining \$271 can be deducted the 8th tax year.

The annual reforestation amortization is claimed on Form 1040 on the line for adjustments rather than being claimed on Schedule A under miscellaneous deductions. (If you use Schedule A for this purpose, you can claim only aggregated miscellaneous deductions that exceed 2 percent of adjusted gross income). Use Form 3468 to claim the investment tax credit.

Any reforestation costs exceeding the \$10,000 annual limit should be capitalized (entered into your timber account). You can recover (deduct) these costs when you sell your timber.

A final word of caution: the tax credit and 7-year amortization deductions are subject to recapture if you dispose of your trees—within 5 years of planting for the credit and within 10 years of planting for the amortization.

## Capital Gains and Self-employment Taxes

If you report your timber sale income as ordinary income, you could pay significantly more in taxes than you would if you report it as a capital gain. Also, capital gains are not subject to the self-employment tax, as is ordinary income. The net self-employment tax rate for 2000 is 15.3 percent for self-employment income of \$400 or more. The rate consists of a 12.4 percent component for old age, survivors, and disability insurance (OASDI) and a 2.9-percent component for hospital insurance (Medicare). The maximum income subject to the OASDI component of the tax rate is \$76,200, while the Medicare component is unlimited. However, if wages subject to Social Security or Railroad Retirement tax are received during the tax year, the maximum is reduced by the amount of wages on which these taxes were paid. To qualify for long-term capital gains treatment, timber sold after December 31, 1997 must have held longer than 12 months. The maximum long-term capital gains rate for timber sold in 2000 is 20% (For taxpayers in the lowest income bracket, the maximum rate is 10%).

## Cost-share Payments

If you received cost-share assistance under one or more of the Federal or State cost-share programs during 2000, you may have to report

*continued on page 19*

# The Prominents – Colorful Caterpillars in our Hardwood Forests

DOUGLAS C. ALLEN

When I first came to the College of Forestry in the summer of 1968, high populations of a species of moth called the saddled prominent, a late season defoliator of sugar maple, American beech and yellow birch, occurred in northern hardwood stands throughout New York state and across New England to western Maine. This outbreak finally subsided in 1972 after more than 1.5 million acres were severely damaged. My research with sugar maple insects began with this moth. In later years, I encountered several other species of prominents in the northeast and have been interested in this group ever since.

The common name “prominents” was given to this family because the moths have a backward projecting lobe or prominence on the inner margin of each front wing. The name seems more appropriate, however, for the larval or caterpillar stages, many of which are

strikingly colored and have pronounced bulges and projections.

## Importance

Species that forest owners are most likely to encounter are native to North America and attain outbreak levels only periodically. A majority of them are late season feeders; that is, when populations are high defoliation does not become evident until mid- or late July and reaches a peak in mid-August to mid-September.

Outbreaks are spectacular to observe, but usually the damage occurs at a time when seasonal growth is nearly completed and it is late enough in the growing season that hosts are not stimulated to produce a second compliment of foliage. When a second flush of leaves occurs in one year, as often happens with heavy defoliation by early season feeders like gypsy moth and forest tent caterpillar, a tree must expend reserves it should be storing to

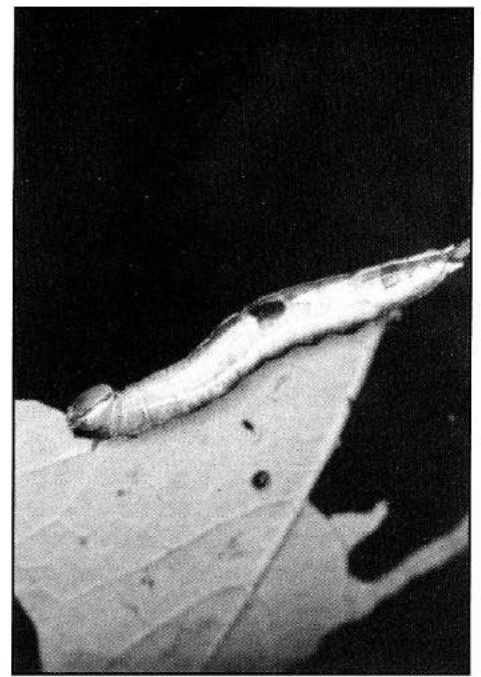


Figure 1 Saddled prominent.

produce the next year's foliage. Also, trees forced to produce foliage twice in the same growing season are often unable to develop a new set of buds in time for them to become cold hardy, a physiological condition necessary to withstand below-freezing temperatures. Either situation may be lethal, because the tree is not able to produce foliage the following spring.

Crown dieback is the principal result of heavy and repeated late season defoliation. This progressive mortality

*continued on next page*



Figure 2 Orangehumped mapleworm.

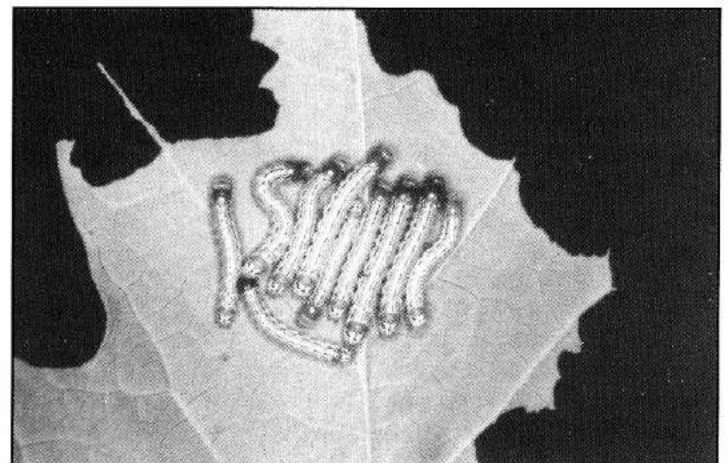
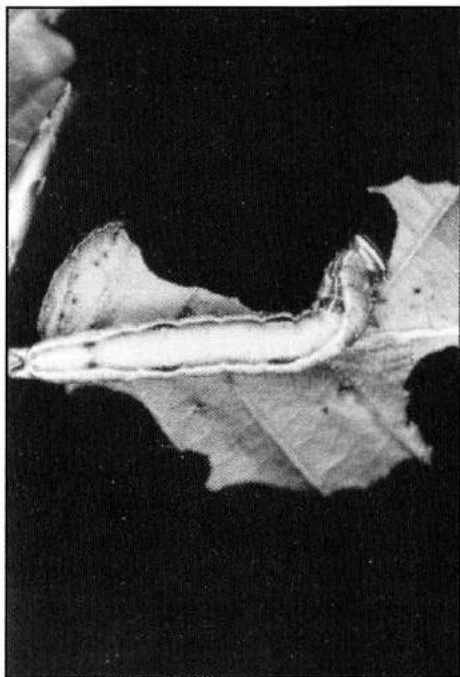


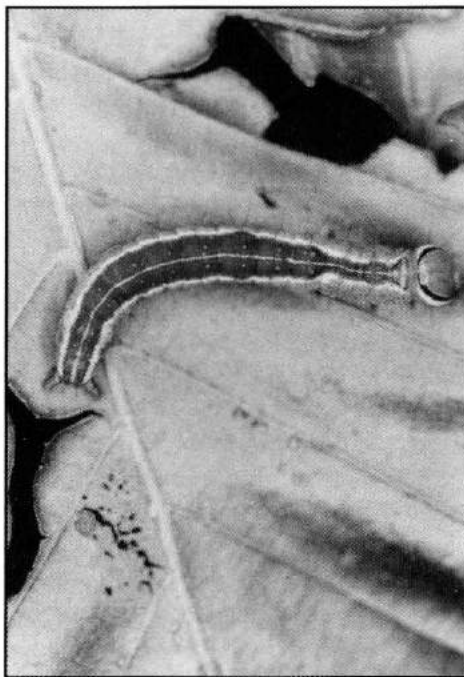
Figure 3 Cluster of orangehumped mapleworms.



**Figure 4** Light colored phase of the variable oakleaf caterpillar.

of branch tips in the upper crown is a tree's temporary response to stress. Typically, crowns recover within a few years after defoliation ends. Late-season defoliation of overstory sugar maple, however, does not have to be severe to have an economic impact on syrup production. Whenever more than 50% of a maple's foliage is removed during the growing season, the amount and quality (sugar content) of maple sap can be lowered substantially the following spring.

Though mortality of overstory trees is rare following late-season defoliation, losses in the understory (saplings, seedlings) may be substantial. This occurs because when caterpillars in the upper canopy (where most eggs are deposited) are disturbed they tend to drop to lower crown levels and eventually congregate on understory vegetation. Because understory trees ordinarily have sparse crowns to begin with, when large numbers of caterpillars accumulate on them these plants are quickly stripped of foliage.



**Figure 5** Dark phase of the variable oakleaf caterpillar

### Common Prominents

The best known member of this family in our region is the **saddled prominent** mentioned above. The mature caterpillar (Fig. 1) is 1.0 to 1.25 inches long with a pea green body brightly marked by a distinct light to dark red, saddle-like pattern on its back (this mark is lacking on some individuals) and four narrow colored bands (brownish, whitish-yellow, pink, and yellow in that order) on each side of the head.

The **orangehumped mapleworm** (Fig. 2) feeds predominantly on sugar maple, but can survive on several species of associated northern hardwoods. When fully grown the caterpillar is 1.2 to 1.4 inches long and generally grayish with nine distinct, longitudinal black stripes (three along the back and a set of three on each side). The head and a dorsal hump on the posterior are bright orange. During early larval stages (i.e., when the caterpillars are very small) it feeds in tightly packed colonies (Fig. 3). Individuals eventually disperse, however, and become solitary feeders.

The **redhumped oakworm**, a closely related species, looks very similar except its head and dorsal hump are distinctly reddish and it possesses five black stripes down the back, not three. As the common name implies, oaks are its principle hosts but it also does well on several northern hardwoods.

During the summer of 2000, I noticed an unusual number of the **variable oakleaf caterpillar** on American beech in southeastern New York. Favored hosts are oaks, but here again several broadleaved species provide suitable food. In recent years, high populations have been reported on beech in Maine. Mature larvae are 1.25 to 1.5 inches long. The common name derives from the fact that these caterpillars vary tremendously in color (Figs. 4, 5). The head is large relative to the body and has a pair of bands on each side; one dark brown and the

*continued on page 18*

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## The Prominents (continued from page 17)

other creamy white. The yellowish to green body has a narrow, pale stripe running down the back with scarlet, reddish-brown or dark brown markings on each side bordered laterally by a creamy-yellow stripe. The markings can be spotty (Fig. 4) or form a continuous band (Fig. 5) on each side of the narrow stripe.

The **yellowlined caterpillar** is also typically found on oaks, maples and beech. Fully grown larvae are approximately 1.5 inches long with a large globose head. The general body color is pale green and a narrow, longitudinal, yellow stripe occurs on each side (Fig. 6).

One of the most striking species I frequently encounter on sugar maple, birch or beech is called the **elm prominent** (Fig. 7). Caterpillars are pea green with distinct brown to reddish-brown markings and are 1.0 to 1.25 inches long.

### General Biology

Most of the species in this group that a forest owner in New York is likely to encounter overwinter as pupae (pew-pee) in the duff. Many construct a crude cocoon of silk and leaves. Adults emerge in early summer, lay eggs on host foliage during late June to mid-July and may feed through early fall. When large (mature) caterpillars

feed, they often are wasteful and clip off large pieces of foliage that accumulate on the ground. These green sections of leaf are quite visible on roads and trails and constitute early signs of a building population. A watchful forest owner will notice these fallen pieces of leaf tissue a year or so before feeding is detectable.

### Pest Management Activities

As with all forest pests, the first line of defense to prevent significant defoliation by a prominent is to carefully monitor stands each season in order to detect populations that could build into a potentially serious problem. Look for pieces of green leaf tissue on the ground or an occasional, relatively large and distinctly colored caterpillar meandering over the ground or on tree trunks in late August or early September. These early signs often signify an unusual situation and indicate the potential for defoliation in a year or so.

Whether one does anything to prevent defoliation by a prominent depends on management objectives. As mentioned above, a sugarbush requires careful evaluation and prompt action to prevent defoliation. On the other hand, if the forest owner's goal is sawlog production, recreation, or maintenance of wildlife habitat, a "wait and see"

attitude would be prudent. Broadleaved trees are able to withstand substantial defoliation without sustaining significant growth loss or mortality. If action is deemed necessary to save foliage (e.g., in a sugarbush) or to prevent repeated heavy defoliation, the most reliable options are an approved synthetic organic insecticide or a suitable formulation of the bacterium, *Bacillus thuringiensis* ("B.t."). In either case, the purpose is to minimize defoliation until natural enemies are able to bring the pest population down to tolerable levels. ▲

*This is the 55th in the series of articles contributed by Dr. Allen, Professor of Entomology at SUNY-ESF. Reprints of this and the complete series are available from NYFOA. It is also possible to download this collection from the DEC Web page at: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/df/privland/forprot/health/nyfo/index.html>.*

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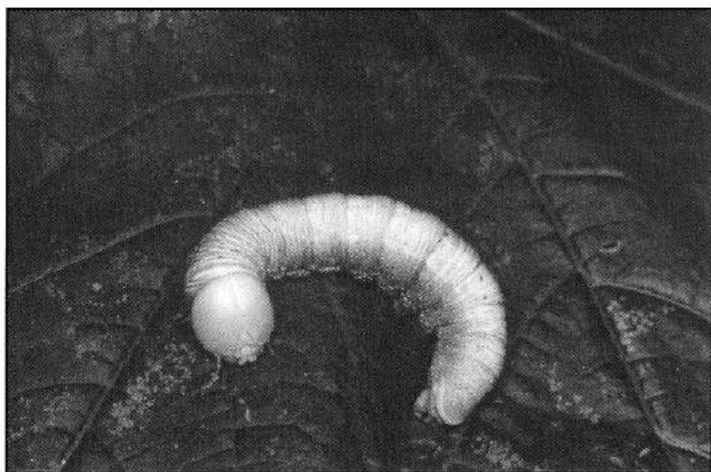


Figure 6 Yellowlined caterpillar.



Figure 7 Elm prominent.

## Tax Tips (continued from page 15)

some or all of it as ordinary income. You have several options. You have the option to include it as income and then recover the part that you pay plus the cost-share payment through the amortization and reforestation tax credit already described. You also have the option to exclude the "excludable portion" from income if certain conditions are met. These conditions are (1) the cost-share program has to be approved for exclusion by the IRS and (2) the maximum amount excludable per acre is the greater of: (a) the present value of \$2.50 per acre or (b) the present value of 10 percent of the average income per acre for the past 3 tax years. This second requirement gets rather complicated because you have to determine an appropriate interest rate to compute the present values. Programs approved for exclusion by the IRS include the Forestry Incentives Program (FIP), the Forest Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP), the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), plus several State programs (check with your State Forestry Agency for approved programs in your state).

Generally, if you harvested the tract within the last 3 years, probably all of the cost-shares received can be excluded from income. In some cases, taxpayers may be better off to exclude cost-share payments. Other taxpayers may be better off not to exclude cost-share payments. Instead, they may be better off to claim the cost-share payments as part of the reforestation tax credit divided by the 7-year amortization. The important point here is: **You must report cost-share payments.** If you decide to exclude, attach a statement to your return that states specifically what cost-share payments you received, that you choose to exclude

some or all of them, and how you determined the excludable amount.

### Conservation Reserve Program

If you planted trees during 2000 under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), you must report your annual payment as ordinary income. If you received CRP cost-share assistance funds for planting your trees, you must also report these as ordinary income. CRP cost-share payments used to establish trees can be claimed as part of the reforestation expenses reported for the reforestation tax credit divided by the 7-year amortization.

Farmers may treat expenditures for soil and water conservation on farmland as expenses in the year incurred, rather than capitalizing them (CRP expenditures qualify). However, the amount deductible in any year shall not exceed 25 percent of the gross income from farming.

### Casualty Losses

A casualty loss must result from some event that is (1) identifiable, (2) damaging to property, and (3) sudden and unexpected or unusual in nature. Examples include wildfire and storms. **Generally, your claim for casualty losses can be no more than the adjusted basis minus any insurance or other compensation.**

The IRS has issued Revenue Rulings on southern pine beetle losses in timberstands, drought losses of planted seedlings, and casualty loss deductions. It ruled that beetle and drought losses generally do not qualify for a casualty loss deduction because they are not sudden. They may, however, qualify for a business- or investment-loss deduction. A 1999 Revenue Ruling permits use of the depletion block as the "single identifiable property damaged or destroyed" in calculating a casualty loss deduction.


### Management and Maintenance Expenses

Generally, your annual expenses for the management and maintenance of an existing stand of timber can be expensed or capitalized. In most cases,

you are better off to expense those costs during the tax year they are incurred, rather than capitalizing them. If it is not to your advantage to itemize deductions for 2000, you should capitalize these expenses. If you choose to itemize deductions, you can deduct these expenses, but the passive loss rules apply.

### Conclusion

Remember these points when you file your 2000 Federal income taxes:

1. Establish your basis as soon as possible and keep good records! Records include a management plan and map, receipts for business transactions, diaries, and landowner meeting agendas.
2. Decide if you are going to be an active or passive participant in a business, or an investor. Generally you will get the best tax advantage if you are an active participant in a business.
3. If you had reforestation (timber stand establishment) costs, be sure to consider the 10-percent reforestation tax credit divided by the 7-year amortization.
4. If you sold timber during 2000, you may be able to benefit from the long-term capital gains provisions because you do not have to pay self-employment tax on capital gains.
5. If you had cost-share assistance during 2000, you must report it to the IRS. You may choose to exclude some or all of it, if certain qualifications are met, but you still must report it.
6. If you participated in the CRP, your annual payments must be reported as ordinary income. Likewise, if you received CRP costshare assistance funds, you must report them as ordinary income.
7. Proper tax planning is just as important as the management techniques to grow a profitable timber crop. For help, contact a professional tax advisor, the Cooperative Extension Service, or your State forestry agency. 

*Larry Bishop is a Forest Management and Taxation Specialist for the USDA Forest Service Southern Region office. This article originally appeared as a Cooperative Forestry Technology Update, Management Bulletin No. R8-MB 87.*

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# Woodlot Calendar

## March 17, 2001 (Saturday)

39<sup>th</sup> NYFOA Spring Meeting 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at SUNY ESF, Marshall Hall, Syracuse, NY. Refer to the January/February issue of the Forest Owner for more information. Contact Debbie Gill at (800) 836-3566 to register by March 3, 2001.

## March 24-25, 2001 (Saturday & Sunday) Woodworkers Showcase

The Northeastern Woodworkers will hold its 10<sup>th</sup> annual Fine Woodworking Show on March 24 and 25 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. The event will be held at the Saratoga Springs City Center, 522 Broadway, Saratoga Springs.

A special exhibit of chairs will be featured at the 2001 show. Other activities include displays of fine woodworking, lectures, demonstrations and exhibits of tools and materials. There will also be a sales area. Toys will be given to all the children who attend.

This show is a great opportunity to see some of the amazing things that can be done with the wood from the trees that we grow. Tickets are \$5.00 for adults. Children under 12 are free. For more information call (518) 371-9145 or via e-mail at HFinkbeine@aol.com

## April 21, 2001 (Saturday)

### "Deer in Rural Woodlands" videoconference

This is a first alert for a multi-state satellite video-conference on "Deer in Rural Woodlands." The broadcast will be the morning of Saturday, April 21, 2001 with downlinks through county offices of Cooperative Extension or others with downlink capability. Please reserve your viewing room for this date! The videoconference audience will include northeastern area rural landowners (resident and absentee), cooperative extension educators, foresters, and other land managers.

A tentative agenda includes topics such as deer population biology, the silviculture of forest regeneration with deer,

working with hunters, methods of controlling deer populations, the economic impacts of deer on forests, and more! Site facilitators are encouraged to work with partners to coordinate afternoon field wrap-around sessions that assess the impacts of deer on local woodlands. Downlink costs will be \$30 for CCE, \$40 for other Cooperative Extension offices, and \$65 elsewhere. Registered downlinks receive the transponder coordinates, a single copy of the proceedings for copy and distribution, field session background information, and the right to make one video copy of the broadcast for future educational use.

The April 21, 2001 videoconference is in the Forest Stewardship videoconference series that began in April 2000 with "Economics of Forest Stewardship." That successful broadcast was downlinked in seven states to almost 60 sites. In many NY downlink sites there developed an exciting synergy among CCE, NYFOA, and DEC to deliver the educational program and technical information to landowners. These partnerships will hopefully continue in NY and expand to other states.

For more information please contact Peter Smallidge by email at [pjs23@cornell.edu](mailto:pjs23@cornell.edu) or phone (607) 255-4696.

## August 5-8, 2001 (Sunday-Wednesday) 92nd Annual Meeting of the Northern Nut Growers Association, Inc.

The Northern Nut Growers Association meeting will be held at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY on August 5-8, 2001. There will be 20-25 speakers who will cover all aspects of nut tree growing. Meeting speakers' involvement in nut trees ranges from the backyard grower, to university instructors, to commercial growers, to out of control hobbyist. For more information contact Tucker Hill via e-mail at [tuckerh@epix.net](mailto:tuckerh@epix.net) or by phone/fax at (717) 938-6090. Information is also available on their web site at: <http://www.icserv.com/nnga/>.

## POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT:

### **Executive Director New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA)**

Non-profit organization seeks a part-time executive director to help expand outreach programs, support chapter and membership volunteers, and increase membership.

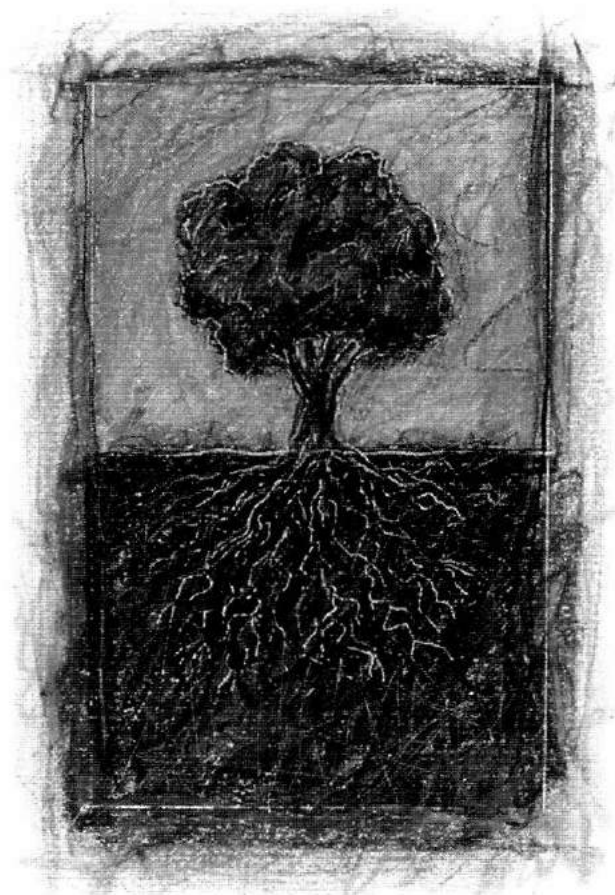
NYFOA, a statewide not-for-profit membership corporation, promotes private forest owners' stewardship through use of desirable woodland practices. Many of its educational programs are conducted by volunteers in 11 regional chapters.

Applicant must have strong communication skills, demonstrated ability to lead organizations and work with volunteers, ability to raise funds, and experience in planning and executing successful action programs. In addition the applicant should be comfortable networking among persons with a range of views, educational levels, and positions and must be willing to market and promote the organization. Familiarity with natural resource issues, organizations and action programs is desirable.

NYFOA will establish a contractual relationship with the successful applicant. He/she will provide own modern office environment and will be compensated by contract up to \$25,000 annually. Arrangements for travel and other expenses will be negotiated with the contract. Flexible though regular work schedule. Successful applicant is expected to reside in New York state.

Direct requests for additional information to 1-800-836-3566 or [nyforestowners@excite.com](mailto:nyforestowners@excite.com). Send application letter and resume to NYFOA Personnel Committee, Box 180, Fairport, NY 14450 by August 1, 2001.





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## Opinion: New Rules a Mistake

KELLY SEVIER

Before President Clinton left office he was busy trying to create an environmental legacy for himself. During the eleventh hour of his administration, Clinton issued regulations to ban logging on nearly 60 million acres of national forestland. This forest policy flop prohibits the wise use of millions of acres of national forestland by eliminating all new roadbuilding and by default, nearly all timber harvesting on that land. This across-the-board ban ignores the concept of local-level planning, disregards scientific forest management strategies and threatens the vitality of hundreds of communities whose economies are centered around the production and harvesting of forest products.

### Forest Health

Even though I agree with the idea of creating and maintaining wilderness areas in our national forest system, I have a serious problem with Clinton's new regulations that halt all roadbuilding and harvesting on close to 60 million acres in one fell swoop. Without question, our national forests contain unique places that should be allowed to maintain wilderness qualities and where bans on roadbuilding and harvesting may be appropriate. However, there are also roadless areas that need active forest management to maintain or restore forest health.

Active forest management is important to maintain the health of forests and provide the benefits our society wants from them. Forest roads and cutting trees are crucial to forest management, emergency response, obtaining resources for products and for recreation. Activities like thinning forests can return the forest to a more natural condition and reduce fire, insect and tree disease hazards. Clinton's rule would make it nearly impossible to reach many areas where stewardship activities are needed and the health of our resources will suffer.

### Local Decision Making

According to current regulations, national forest planning should be conducted in a manner that emphasizes local decision-making. This means that the manner in which specific national forests are managed is largely dependent on the will of the local people near that particular national forest. Clinton's new rules are contrary to the current emphasis on collaborative decision making and forest management in general. His administration's roadbuilding and harvesting rules are a top-

down management decision that force resource managers to make decisions based on a national policy that does not reflect local conditions.

In addition to being inconsistent with the current planning process, Clinton's new rule may overturn over 100 existing plans for national forest management. This makes no sense. People from all over the nation have worked to create these forest plans, they cost millions of dollars to develop, their creation have been heralded as environmental and collaborative success stories by Clinton for the last eight years, and now his new regulations would make them obsolete and useless. Talk about waste.

### Community Vitality

Property taxes are used to offset the cost of operating schools and maintaining community infrastructure. In the west, where a significant portion of a County's land base may be a national forest, infrastructure costs are not offset by property taxes. In these communities, a portion of the revenue from timber harvests on nearby national forests is returned to those counties. In the east, and in New York State, we have fewer national forests and therefore are not impacted as heavily by a loss of property tax revenue. However, residents of Seneca County are thankful that a portion of the revenue from forest products from the Finger Lakes National Forest are returned to their community to offset costs. President Clinton's new rule will cease harvesting on millions of acres and jeopardize the vitality and quality of life of citizens in communities that rely on forest products revenue from national forests.

The impacts of the rules handed down by Clinton's administration at the last minute will not be felt immediately. If enforced, the rules could be a hard blow to the health of our nation's forest resources and the communities that rely on them. President Bush has criticized the rules but he has not said whether he will try to overturn them. ▲

*Kelly Sevier is a 2000 graduate of the MFO Program and resides in Auburn, NY.*

## MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Materials submitted for the May/June issue should be sent to Mary Beth Malmsheimer, Editor, *The New York Forest Owner*, 134 Lincklaen Street, Cazenovia, NY 13035, (315) 655-4110 or via e-mail at [mmalmshe@syr.edu](mailto:mmalmshe@syr.edu)

Articles, artwork and photos are invited and if requested, are returned after use.



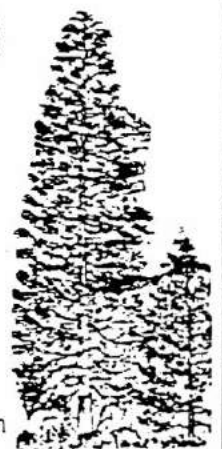
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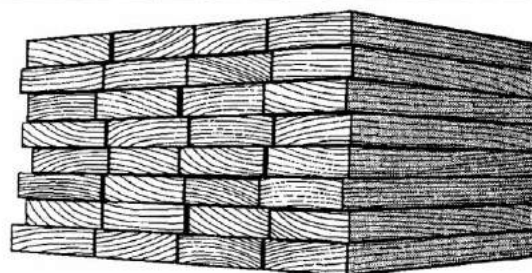
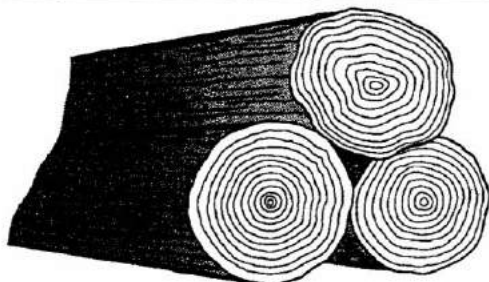


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