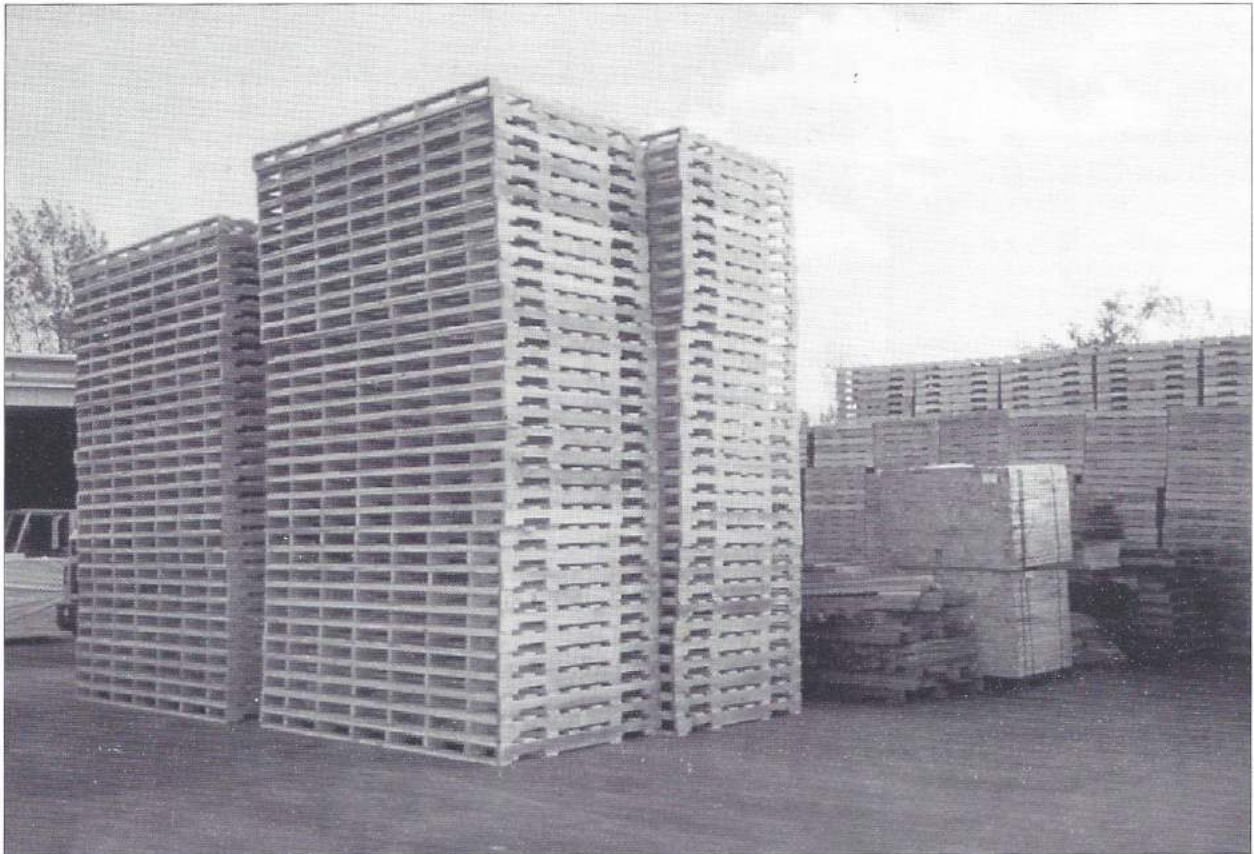


The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

January/February 2002



Volume 40 Number 1



FOUNDED 1963

**THE NEW YORK
FOREST OWNERS
ASSOCIATION**

Volume 40, Number 1

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Ronald Pedersen, President
22 Vandenburg Lane,
Latham, NY 12110; (518) 785-6061

Jim Minor, Vice President
22 Bryn Mawr Road
Rochester, NY 14624; (716) 247-7069

John Druke, Secretary
6341 Kirkville Road
Kirkville, NY 13082; (315) 656-2313

Jerry Michael, Treasurer
4 Leonard Lane,
Binghamton, NY 13901; (607) 648-2941

Deborah Gill, Administrative Secretary
P.O. Box 180
Fairport, NY 14450; (716) 377-6060

Joan Kappel, Chair Editorial Committee
P.O. Box 646
Altamont, NY 12009-0646; (518) 861-8753

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Mike Greason, Catskill, (518) 943-9230
Jack Hamilton, Wayland, (716) 728-5769
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**The New York
Forest Owner**

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

The New York Forest Owner is a bi-monthly publication of The New York Forest Owners Association, P.O. Box 180, Fairport, N.Y. 14450. Materials submitted for publication should be sent to: Mary Beth Malmshemer, Editor, The New York Forest Owner, 134 Lincklaen Street, Cazenovia, New York 13035. Materials may also be e-mailed to mmalmsh@syr.edu. Articles, artwork and photos are invited and if requested, are returned after use. The deadline for submission for the March/April issue is February 1, 2001.

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COVER: The cover photo shows loads of wood pallets at a pallet mill in Central New York. For information on the future of this industry see page 6 for full article. Photograph courtesy of Eric Johnson.

From The President

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I introduce **Daniel J. Palm** to you all. Dan has been selected by your Board of Directors to serve as the **New York Forest Owners Association's Executive Director**.

Dan brings to NYFOA extensive experiences in program planning, development, and implementation, as well as budgeting, fund raising, and other essential administrative skills, honed through years of employment and as a volunteer with non-profit organizations. He understands the need for landowner education and is committed to helping NYFOA effectively reach many more New York forest owners.



Dan and his wife Linda live in Stamford, Delaware County, near the 475 acres of forestland owned jointly with his brother. The property is enrolled under the 480A program and

is being actively managed in accordance with the management plan.

Dan served as executive director of New York's St. Lawrence-Eastern Ontario Commission for a number of years – an independent state agency charged with the preservation and development of natural resources in that region, as well as development of the area's commercial, agricultural and other resources.

In 1995-96, he was Regional Director for the Department of Environmental Conservation in central New York, supervising natural resource, environmental quality, legal and administrative staffs. He has developed non-profit organizations from concept to staffing with sustained funding, and has been an officer and active participant in several other nonprofit organizations concerned with natural resources.

In 1991, Dan retired from the US Naval Reserve with the rank of Captain, having commanded several reserve units in the years following his active duty. He has taught at Jefferson County Community College, and mentored students through Empire State College.

Dan received his undergraduate degree in agriculture from Cornell University, and

went on to earn his master's degree from New Mexico State University, and his doctorate in resource economics from Penn State University.

We warmly welcome Dan and very much look forward to working with him!

I want to personally thank all who applied for this position. The search committee was extremely pleased with the background and qualifications of the applicants. It is clear that private landowners have many talented and committed folks in their corner.

We are particularly grateful for the diligent efforts of our executive director search committee. Vice President Jim Minor, Chuck Winship, Pat Ward, Peter Smallidge, and Paul Yarbrough's time, expertise, and thoughtful judgments carried out the Board's mandate in a thoroughly professional manner. Thanks to each of you for the extra efforts for NYFOA in recent months.

And, on a very different front, kudos to Jerry Michael. Jerry, a long time officer in the Southern Tier Chapter and more recently NYFOA's treasurer, has been elected to the Board of the Cornell Cooperative Extension Association for Broome County. His presence on this policy setting body will further strengthen Broome County's already well established recognition of the importance of sound management by private woodland owners. Congratulations Jerry!

I've always been optimistic, but am now even more excited than before about the future and potential for NYFOA. We know there are about 250,000 private landowners in New York with ten acres or more. We know that perhaps only 15% of all harvests have the benefit of professional guidance. We know that high grading continues, and probably threatens the very future of our hardwood resource. (Some would say we are killing the goose that lays the golden eggs).

We know that many landowners are not aware that there are experts available to help them meet their personal ownership objectives in ways that also enhance our natural resources for future generations.

For 2002 and beyond, NYFOA has its work cut out for it. Our volunteer leaders and members across the state are up to the challenge, and we now warmly welcome Dan to the team.

Happy New Year!

—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*, woodswalks, chapter meetings, and two statewide meetings for all members.

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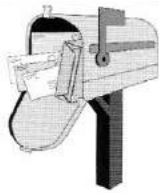
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In The MAIL



Letters to the Editor
may be sent to:
The New York Forest Owner
134 Lincklaen Street, Cazenovia, NY 13035
or
via e-mail at mmalmshe@syr.edu

Follow-up on Controlling Invasive Species article

Here is another follow-up thought to the Dave Sturges article in the September/October 2001 issue of the Forest Owner (Controlling Interfering Vegetation, page 10). In February of 1976 the Applied Forestry Research Institute of the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry published Research Report #29, "An Evaluation of Chainsaw Girdling to Treat Unwanted Northern Hardwoods," by Jack B. Cody and Kenneth F. Burns. The study involved over 3,300 hardwood trees, ranging from 4 to 30 inches D.B.H. treated during the winter months of January, February, and March. The

conclusion was that a properly made chainsaw girdle, *without chemicals*, is as effective as other treatments which used a variety of chemicals.

Chain saw girdles need to completely sever the cambium (inner bark-growth initiating tissue), and the ends must meet, not simply overlap. A horizontal cut one inch deep, with particular attention paid to seams and uneven or convoluted areas, is generally recognized as highly effective. The additional cost of using a chemical, both in dollars and in time, are important factors in the landowners decision-making process. This is particularly true where sprouting is not deemed to be a problem. Some contractors and some landowners I have known have preferred to simply completely sever smaller trees not considered to be of firewood size – 3-4 inch D.B.H. or smaller, to save time.

A special thanks is due to all of those who help to make the New York Forest Owner such a valuable publication. I have long thought that if we could get an issue into the hands of forest owners not currently members, NYFOA might experience some dynamic growth.

–Scott K. Gray, III
Lowville, NY

Crop Tree Management

In the September/October 2001 edition of the Forest Owner Mike Greason suggests doing crop tree release by cutting down trees "on at least two sides, preferably three." In his book *Crop Tree Management in Eastern Hardwoods*, Arlyn Perkey emphasizes that crop trees be "fully" released or that we should "be sure each of them receives a complete crown touching release."

I have heard other foresters also mention the benefits of releasing crop trees on one to three sides. I was not in a position to ask why some foresters talk about releasing trees on one or two sides, while Perkey, who wrote the book, emphasizes four sided release.

In my lay opinion it seems to depend on size and age. If a tree has growth rings of 12 to an inch, is 20 inch DBH and gets released on four sides it would have a structural weak point at the point where it started to grow faster, maybe degrading. If it is a veneer tree the sudden change of growth rate could make it less desirable to veneer buyers.

Perhaps one of our experts could comment on this issue? 📧

–Jim Martin
Muenster, Germany

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Continuing Problem of Timber Theft

MICHAEL GREASON

In spite of continuing efforts of people like Ron Pedersen, timber theft continues to flourish. Presently I am involved in seven timber theft/fraud cases for clients. And over the past few days I've learned a local district attorney is going to dispatch one case at a very disappointing settlement.

This past summer I was contacted by an out of state, absentee owner. He had been approached by a logger regarding his willingness to sell timber. He declined stating he was not interested in having his property harvested. Yet, the logger cut it anyway. The State Police were called and the job was halted in progress. The logger produced a contract signed by another party, also from out of state to show the trespass was an innocent error.

Upon being contacted, I proceeded to make a site inspection, measuring stumps and developing an appraisal. I shared this report with the owner, who asked me to meet with the district attorney. In meeting with him, I learned that the money the logger made from this trespass was being used to pay restitution from a similar situation where this logger had stolen timber from another out of state, absentee owner and that case was being handled by this same district attorney. In that case the owner had also stated he was not interested in selling any wood to this logger.

To add to the case, another woodlot owner in an adjoining town had also told this logger he was not interested in selling timber, only to find his trees cut right up to the edge of his lawn. And, again the logger had a contract signed by a third party.

I felt sure that with three similar, obviously deliberate timber thefts that this culprit was headed for some jail time. Yet, just the other night, the D.A. called me to say he was going to settle the case for slightly over half the stumpage value of the timber stolen. He did not see timber theft worthy of his effort to prosecute the case criminally. I asked why the settlement was at less than the value of stumpage and he told me that was all he felt the culprit could afford. The victim is seventy-six years old and most assuredly will not see the return of eighty year old red oaks and hard maples to the site. He had owned a beautiful, mature forest with stream frontage; and that is being replaced with a black berry patch. Discouraged is an understatement for this client. He does not wish to pursue a civil case as he realizes the logger is judgment free.

Where am I going with this? I think we, as members of NYFOA, need to rise up and take a stand against timber theft. We need to stand in line behind Ron Pedersen and join him in a crusade against this criminal act. Let's make this a topic of discussion at local chapter meetings and see if we can devise a way of attacking this problem. ▲

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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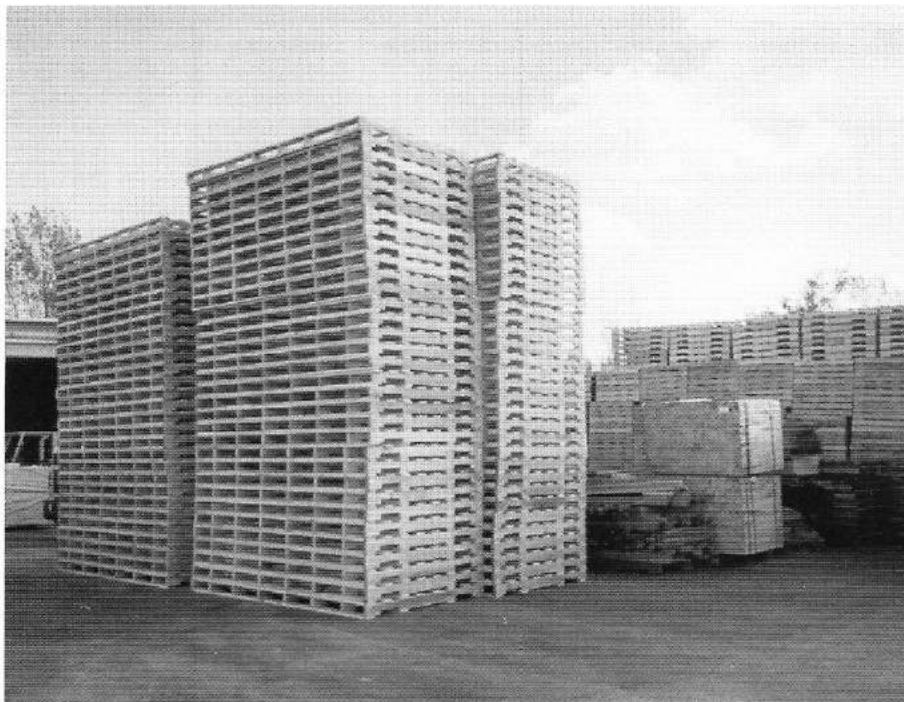
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NYFOA Scholarship Fund

As of December 1, 2001, the NYFOA Endowed Scholarship Fund that is administered by the SUNY ESF College Foundation, Inc. has a fund balance of \$20,806.14



A Brighter Future for Pallets In the Northeast and Lake States?

ERIC JOHNSON

One Short Year Ago.....

Last year I was standing on an empty log yard at a new pallet lumber mill in Central New York, feeling the pain of the owner, who found himself caught in a classic squeeze. Sitting on a huge investment in production equipment

and great markets for all the lumber he could produce, the mill owner couldn't find enough pallet-grade logs to keep the mill running on anything resembling a full schedule. Plus, he was forced to pay more for the logs he could find.

The problem, one short year ago, was tremendous competition for low-grade logs from pulpmills and conventional sawmills running full-out, combined with wet logging conditions that had been cutting into the average logger's production during the late summer and early fall.

Another problem for this mill owner was that because he was new on the scene, he didn't have long-standing suppliers with loyalties going back years and—in the case of some of his competitors—even decades. As a result, the few logs that were produced in his area tended to go to other, well-established operations.

All in all, the year 2000 was a bad time to be a newcomer in the pallet business in Central New York.

The Current Outlook for Pallet Logs

How things change in a year.

Today, three of the five markets for hardwood pulpwood in Central New York have closed for good, a fourth is



A number of factors may combine to create a new opportunity for pallet manufacturing in the Northeast and Lake States region.

on an extended strike and the fifth—the only mill left buying roundwood—finds itself competing in a depressed world market for pulp and paper. That leaves a lot of pallet-grade material that used to wind up in pulpmill yards, now looking for a market.

Furthermore, grade sawmills in the region, responding to slower worldwide demand for high-grade lumber, have lowered prices on low-grade hardwood logs. And, to further aggravate the situation, a dry summer and fall have dramatically improved logging conditions.

So, bad news for just about everyone else in the forest products industry translates into a suddenly favorable situation for anyone in the market for low-grade logs. Assuming that enough loggers are able to stay in business and continue cutting woodlots containing hardwood (and that's far from certain), the supply of pallet-grade logs should continue to be both plentiful and affordable.

Pallet Demand

Of course, favorable log supplies and pricing won't matter much if the bottom falls out of the pallet market itself.

Standing in the mud on that log yard a year ago with a depressed mill owner, it looked as though there was no end in sight for the shortage of pallet-grade logs. The economic boom, which helped fuel record demand for paper products and everything made from quality hardwood, seemed like a sure bet to continue well into the 21st Century.

And, like most sure bets, that extended economic boom failed to materialize. You can blame the "dot-com bomb," the mangled presidential election, the World Trade Center disaster or any other factor or combination of factors for undermining consumer confidence and economic growth in 2001, but the fact remains that this is the year our national cycle of prosperity came to a screeching halt.

What that will do to the overall market for pallets remains to be seen,



The days of empty pallet mill logyards are probably over in parts of the Northeast and Lake States....

but simple logic suggests that the pallet business will continue to closely track industrial production and the industries that ship other goods (such as agricultural and food products) around this country and abroad.

A time-worn (if medically-dated) adage is that the best economic indicators are "pork bellies and pallets," since

people tend to eat more bacon during periods of prosperity, and nearly every manufactured item of value is placed, at one time or another, on a pallet.

Still, it is important to remember that the pallet industry has many different segments and that each responds to different economic

continued on page 8



....Thanks in part to recent closures of pulpmills across the region.

A Brighter Future? (continued from page 7)

stimuli. If you provide pallets to the food industry, for example, an economic slowdown is less likely to affect your business because the demand for food is not likely to change very much (unless, of course, your pallets are used to ship pork bellies). If your pallets are used to transport something like printing paper, on the other hand, then an economic slowdown will have a very real impact on your business.

Likewise, different types of wood and pallet styles serve different sectors of the economy and are subject to a variety of circumstances that affect demand. A pallet carrying boxes of computers on a truck from South Dakota, for example, is likely to be a one-way design made of popple or softwood. Engine parts manufactured in Ohio, by contrast, would most likely be shipped on a reusable oak, maple or beech pallet.

These distinctions are important for reasons related to geography, predominant timber types, local labor markets and competing markets for logs.

In a nutshell, success in the pallet business in the near future is going to depend on having enough of the right kind of logs, people and equipment at the right price, and serving industries and other customers that remain healthy during an economic downturn.

In today's world, species is important not only because of customary pallet design and usage, but because of external factors such as restrictions

imposed on pallets used for export. The European Union, for example, now requires that American pallets constructed—or containing—softwood components must be heat treated in order to kill off pests that might be along for the ride. The restrictions don't apply to hardwoods because they don't harbor the same pests.

While softwood-bearing pallets will undoubtedly continue to be shipped to Europe, they will be more expensive and presumably more susceptible to competition from other species and types of materials.

But that doesn't guarantee vast new markets for hardwood pallets because even though they don't require heat treatment, most hardwood pallets are heavier than their softwood counterparts, and thus more expensive in some cases to ship, bugs or no bugs.

Labor Concerns

A critical factor in the success of any pallet manufacturing enterprise is the labor market. Despite a high degree of automation in the pallet industry over the past decade, both skilled and unskilled positions need to be filled at rates that allow the finished product to be competitively priced. This need has in recent years favored manufacturers in traditionally low-wage regions, as opposed to higher-income areas like much of the Northeast and Lake States.

Economic hard times and a steadily declining manufacturing base will help

ease pressure on the labor supply over the next few years nationally, with pallet operations (and most other manufacturers) in the Northeast and Lake States to benefit the most.

Alternative Materials

The major issue that has captured the attention and inspired the concern of the pallet industry in recent years has been the emergence of alternative materials, such as plastic, fiber glass and composites, to construct pallets.

Like steel studs and other substitutes for solid wood introduced in recent years, however, synthetic pallets have established a secure—but minor—niche in the materials handling world.

The reasons for this trend are many, beginning with decreased durability and repairability, and ending with the extra expense and hassle involved in disposing of hard-to-recycle materials. Solid wood, it seems, is hard to beat in the rugged world of forklifts and loading docks, heavy loads and crowded landfills, cheap nails and cheap wood.

When they wear out or break they can be repaired or mulched, used to fuel a boiler or simply put into a pile and burned, depending on local ordinances.

Outlook

The rapid—and apparently permanent—decline in the hardwood pulpwood market in much of the Northeast and Lake States has left the region with forests full of low-grade hardwood timber. While there are many factors that need to fall into place for the emergence of a viable pallet manufacturing industry in this part of the country, it is one of the most promising possibilities on an otherwise bleak horizon for the utilization low-grade hardwood. ▲

Eric Johnson is Executive Editor of "Northern Logger." This article originally appeared in the November 2001 issue of Northern Logger" and is reprinted with their permission.

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NEWS & NOTES

Online Database of Demonstration Forests


 Demonstration, model, research, and experimental forests contain valuable information, but often no one knows they're there. The National Community Forestry Center, Northern Forest Region has developed an online database of demonstration, model, research and experimental forests located in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, and Northern Massachusetts. Included in the database are forests that have: 1) active and ongoing research on forest ecology and/or management techniques including timber, non-timber use, recreation and multiple use; and 2) willingness on the part of forest owners/managers to share their research and/or management techniques with others.


We surveyed over one hundred non-profits, universities, businesses, and individuals that manage or oversee one or more forest sites meeting our criteria. The surveys requested information regarding the focus and scope of research and/or demonstration. The information has been compiled and is accessible on our website, www.ncfcnfr.net. Currently the

database contains 50 demonstration forests throughout Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. Users can search the database by geographic location or selected forest ecology and/or forest management topics. Forest owners/managers have the opportunity to update information they have provided or add their forest site to the database. Our hope is that the database will serve as a medium to connect communities and forest professionals throughout the region.

The National Community Forestry Center (NCFC) is a decentralized network with four regional centers and a national coordinator. The four regional centers are located in the Southwest, Southeast, Pacific Northwest, and Northeast. NCFC, Northern Forest Region is administered by Yellow Wood Associates, Inc. of St. Albans, Vermont. The core purpose of the NCFC, Northern Forest Region is to help rural people conduct and use research to inform decision-making about forest resources.

Stream Steward Restoration Guide

 The American Tree Farm System has released the publication *Stream Steward Restoration Guide: A Small Woodland Owner's Guide to Stream Habitat Restoration*, prepared in conjunction with Trout Unlimited. Intended for landowners interested in improving stream habitat or protecting a watershed, the guide

provides practical information on assessing and selecting a site, finding experts to assist with the project, getting funds and permits, and monitoring and maintaining the project's results. The guide is free to nonindustrial private landowners and can be downloaded from <http://www.treefarmssystem.org/conservation> or ordered from the American Tree Farm System at 1-888-889-4466. 

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INVASIVE PLANTS - PART I

BOB BERKEMEIR

This article is part one of a multi-part series on invasive plants. We will continue this series in the next few issues of the Forest Owner.

Invasive plants are one of the newest concerns of landowners. The plants are not new, but the concerns about them are.

So what are invasive plants? Where do they come from? What's being done about them? Invasive plants can or will affect us all. Whether you live in the city or in rural areas, these are the problem plants of our era.

Farmers and gardeners have always had problems with "invasive plants" in the crops. These are the plants which can invade and control a given situation. In a field of corn, quackgrass is an example. Not too many years ago, if some quackgrass roots were left in the field when the corn was planted, and the corn was not growing at a rapid rate, quackgrass would very quickly take over and dominate the corn. In a few weeks instead of a "beautiful" field of

corn (mattered not if it was sweet corn for our table or cow corn to be harvested for fodder), you would end up with a stunted, runty corn crop and a great crop of quackgrass which had very little value as a food. None for me – maybe a little value for a cow.

Many homeowners can also relate to this situation today with the beautiful yellow dandelion which can grow and persist in the best of managed lawns. No matter what you do, they still persist and defy us.

Farmers can now control quackgrass, fussy gardeners can control dandelions but then something else comes along. Whether it is redroot, lamb's-quarters, or crabgrass, Mother Nature is always trying to fill the void, so to speak. She's always making sure that as much of the earth is covered as possible. The cute part about this is that several different plants can have the same bit of turf, because when one is done growing and setting seed, another has been right underneath it waiting for its place in the sun.

By the standards of those who should be in the know, these native invasive plants are not as great a concern as an immigrant invasive plant which occupies the same spot year after year. Not only farmers are affected, but also the public. The invasives which are of concern are those which may choke up lakes, streams or parks and other public lands, along with farm fields, and idle areas. They are not native so they have little if any natural controls to limit their reproduction and spread.

Generally, invasive plants are called nonnatives, exotics, aliens, non-indigenous harmful species, or just plain weedy trees, shrubs or vines. Mankind has always favored certain plants or animals over others. Those were the ones which were more productive, sweeter, better colored, easier to control or easier to manage. From an agricultural point of view, weeds interfere with crop production or harvest and this translates into higher costs, eventually for consumers. For a home-owner, it means a continuous struggle to grow grass and flowers as opposed to weeds.

So what are invasive plants? They are plants out of place. They have certain characteristics which help them adapt to certain situations. Examples are the ability to grow fast, to reproduce quickly and or abundantly, and the ability to spread easily by seed or vegetative means. Some of them are also parasitic, often have spines, thorns or prickles to repel animals, and often contain toxins (natural pesticides) which control other vegetation and/or the critters which would be browsers and feeders on the plant.

How did they get here? Well, some were brought by colonists, some were imported as flower plants, some came with ship by-products like ballast water



Purple Loosestrife

etc. Some were brought by tourists, with imports of special seeds, or in the material used in packaging for shipments. It doesn't matter how, what matters is that they are here now.

Examples of invasive plants that most people have heard of include Eurasian water milfoil which is widespread in New York State and in many ponds and lakes in more than 30 states. It chokes the lake to the point that you can't fish, swim or boat on it. It can also choke the natural water flow and clog water intake systems.

Another example most people have heard of is the kudzu vine. It was once planted as a soil erosion control plant. It was planted extensively in the south to heal gullies and stop erosion. Unfortunately the plant also has the ability, once established, to create impenetrable thickets and to cover forests with a total canopy which blocks out all sunlight to the trees below. Now kudzu is established in 20 or more states mostly east of the Mississippi River.

Another widespread invasive is Common Phragmites or Common reed, the plumed plant in our ditches and swamps. It chokes out cattails and other native plants and plugs the drainage ditches so water can't flow. Common Phragmites can be so thick that many wetland animals can't get through the growth. It can choke out all other plants in its area and now it's established in every east coast state.

Purple Loosestrife (it's that real pretty reddish purple blossom in mid-August to mid-September) has taken over another part of the wetland and again can even choke out cattails. Its only redeeming value is the pretty flower and the honey which can be made from it. Otherwise it has no real value for wildlife either as food or cover.

The Invasive Plant Council of New York State has recently created an **Invasive Plant List** which contains 20 names (it is sort of like the FBI's 10 most wanted list). However, in this case it's the 20 least desired or most invasive list. Included on this list are: Black locust, Black swallow-wort,

Buckthorns (both species), Common phragmites, Curly pondweed, Autumn and Russian olive, Eurasian water milfoil, Garlic mustard, Honeysuckle (3 kinds of shrubs), Japanese barberry, Japanese knotweed, Japanese stilt grass, Multiflora rose, Norway maples, Oriental bittersweet, Porcelain-berry, Purple loosestrife, Spotted or bushy knapweed and Water Chestnut. **Editors Note:** we will cover some of these plants in more detail in future issues of the *Forest Owner*.

Some notables not on the list include Giant hogweed which has huge leaves on a 4-7 foot stalk and can cause a poison ivy like rash. Velvetleaf is another invasive which can still flower and set seed as late as August on plants that are only 6 inches high. Even though the usual height is 5 to 8 feet tall, the Canada Thistle, which is a perennial, can invade and dominate any idle or little used land like pastures.

What can be done about invasive plants? Well, enjoy them if you can,

destroy them when you can, but most importantly, don't plant them! Furthermore, become familiar with what they look like so you can encourage others not to plant them. 🌿

Bob Berkemeir works at the Genesee County Soil & Water Conservation District in Batavia, NY



Common Phragmites or Common reed

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*Society of American Foresters • Pennsylvania Forestry Association
Member NY Forest Owners Association*

NYFOA General Director Candidates

Each individual will serve a term of three years

James Beil, Schenectady, NY

Jim is currently Assistant Director, Division of Lands & Forests in the DEC in Albany but will be retiring soon. He has worked with DEC for almost 20 years both in the Albany office and in Western New York. Jim has a B.S. in forestry from SUNY-ESF. He has been active in the Capital District chapter of NYFOA. He has been on committees of the Society of American Foresters, U.S. Forest Service, and 7th American Forestry Congress. Jim also is active in the urban forestry arena and works to recruit minority youth to natural resources careers.

Jack Hamilton, Wayland, NY

Jack Hamilton, a current Board member, has managed his 150-acre tree farm with help from his son Andy and daughter Jane for the past 30 years. In 1991 he was state, regional and National Outstanding Tree Farmer and served on the Tree Farm national operating committee and as state Tree Farm chair. Prior to retiring as a physician in Rochester he was County medical society president, served on the state professional medical conduct board and was a medical director of several organizations.

Keith Hedgecock, Pleasant Valley, NY

Keith is a native of Dutchess County. He and his family live on a three acre wooded lot. He worked for IBM for the past twenty-three years in Utility Plant Operations and Chemical- Environmental Operations. As a Master Forest Owner Keith has made about twenty landowner visits. He is currently the Dutchess County coordinator and Treasurer for the Lower Hudson Chapter of NYFOA. Other memberships include the National Arbor Day Foundation, and the Nature Conservancy.

Robert Malmshemer, Cazenovia, NY

Bob is Assistant Professor of Forest Policy and Law at SUNY ESF where he teaches several law and policy courses. His research focuses on how laws and the legal system affect forest and natural resource management. He also serves as ESF's Prelaw Advisor. In 2001, Bob was the recipient of the ESF Undergraduate Student Association's Distinguished Teacher Award. Bob has a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from SUNY ESF in 1986 and a J.D. from Albany Law School in 1989. He practiced law in Buffalo, NY for six years. Bob is a member of the New York State Legislative Commission on Rural Resources' Timber Theft Advisory Committee.

Billy Morris, Bath, NY

Billy has worked as a private forester, associate editor of the Northern Logger magazine, and since 1970 as a service forester with the DEC from which he will be retiring soon. He has worked closely with forest owners in western New York State and has received the New York State and National Tree Farmer of the Year Awards. He was awarded the 2001 Outstanding Service Award by NYFOA.

Sharon Wieder, Machias, NY

Sharon and her husband live on 157 acres of an old farm property near West Valley that they manage mostly for recreation & wildlife. They have worked with the DEC service foresters, have participated in the Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP), have planted some trees on the land and are Master Forest Owners. They are very active in NYFOA. They helped host the State Fall meeting this past year at Camp Duffield. Sharon has served as secretary and more recently as editor of the Allegany Foothills Chapter newsletter.

DETACH AND COMPLETE

MAIL BEFORE MARCH 1, 2002

Election Form

VOTE FOR FIVE (5) CANDIDATES

James Beil ()

Jack Hamilton ()

Keith Hedgecock ()

Robert Malmshemer ()

Billy Morris ()

Sharon Wieder ()

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

Send ballot to: Debbie Gill
P.O. Box 180
Fairport, NY 14450



New York Forest Owners Association

40th

Annual Spring Program



Joined by members of the New York Tree Farm System

Saturday, March 16, 2002

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

(see reverse for directions)

- 8:15 **Registration and Coffee/Tea/Juice/Danish.** Check out silent auction* items and place your bids. Also check out the NYFOA displays from chapters from across the state.
- 9:00 **Welcome - Ron Pedersen, President, New York Forest Owners Association**
- 9:10 **The Fluid Forests of New York and New England – Evolution of Forests in Response to Climatic Changes – Neil Pederson, PhD.** Candidate in Forest Ecology and Climate, Columbia University.
- 10:00 **Leaving a Forest Legacy - Engaging Your Heirs in the Long-Term Planning Process – Thom McEvoy, Extension Forester, University of Vermont**
- 10:50 **Break**
- 11:10 **What Can Go Wrong On A Timber Sale - A First Person Account – Ray DuFour, NYS landowner**
- 11:45 **Update on Related Timber Sale Legislation Changes – Hugh Canham, SUNY ESF**
- 12:00 **Lunch** (provided) – Nifkin Student Lounge. Update silent auction bids. Continue reviewing the “Display of Displays”
- 12:40 **Awards Presentations**
- 1:00 **Continue Silent Auction.** Final bids at 1:15!
- 1:30 **SUNY ESF Topics and Associated Lab Visits (pick any 2):**
 - Wood Products Engineering Materials lab and Dry Kilns
 - Forest Insects
 - Greenhouses and Botanical Collection
- 3:00 (Conclusion of Lab Visits, return to Marshall Hall)
- 3:15 **Silent Auction Results – Charlotte Baxter, New York Tree Farm System & Walter Friebe, NYFOA**
- 3:30 **Adjourn Spring Program**
- 3:35 **NYFOA Business Meeting**
- 4:00 **Adjourn NYFOA Business Meeting**

* Please contact Charlotte Baxter at (607) 967-8516 or Walter Friebe at (315) 841-8874 for items you may wish to contribute to the auction.

DETACH AND COMPLETE

MAIL BEFORE MARCH 1, 2002

Registration Form, NYFOA 40th Annual Spring Program

Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Chapter / Affiliation _____
 Please find my check for registration(s) at \$16 each, made out to NYFOA. Total enclosed: _____

Send registration to: Debbie Gill
P.O. Box 180
Fairport, NY 14450

For more information, call 1-800-836-3566

Directions to SUNY ESF Syracuse Campus

40th Annual Spring Program

From Points East of Syracuse:

1. New York State Thruway (I-90) west to exit 34A for I-481 south.
2. I-481 south to exit for I-81 north.
3. I-81 north to exit 18 for East Adams Street.
4. Turn right onto East Adams Street at the end of the exit ramp.
5. Adams Street past the SUNY Health Science Center to Irving Avenue (two blocks).
6. Turn right onto Irving Avenue. Follow Irving Avenue to the end.
7. The ESF campus entrance is on your left, next to the Carrier Dome.

From Points South of Syracuse:

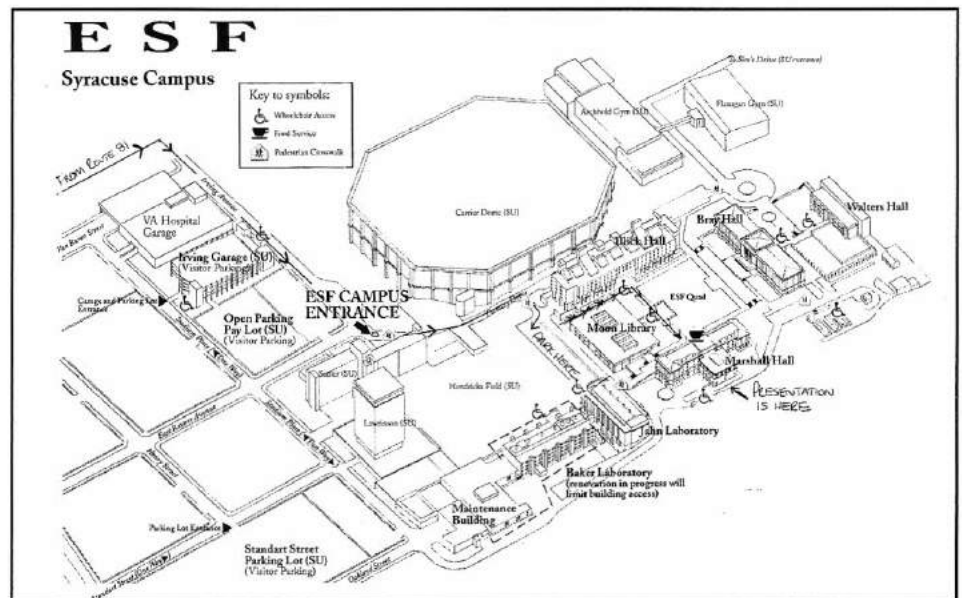
1. I-81 north to exit 18 for East Adams Street.
2. Follow steps 4-7 above.

From Points West of Syracuse:

1. New York State Thruway (I-90) east to exit 36 for I-81 south.
2. I-81 south to exit 18 for East Adams Street (follow signs).
3. Follow steps 4-7 above.

From Points North of Syracuse:

1. I-81 south to exit 18 for East Adams Street (follow signs).
2. Follow steps 4-7 above.



Wanted: Dead or Alive

Yes, that's exactly what we want and need...

Be it items we use to cut, harvest, and burn the wood to keep us warm all winter long. Be it items created from the live species growing in our forests; those wonderful crafts made and given to fill other's lives with enjoyment for years to come. Be it items unusual or common, large or small. What ever it may be, a desperate search is on...

The NYFOA spring meeting silent auction is on its way! That special day to get what you need to pique your skills and performance in your woodlot.

Planned for Saturday March 16th (see page 13 for full announcement), the auction benefits the Tree Farm's work and NYFOA's educational outreach to youth.

What ever it is you wish to donate, it will mean more than you'll ever know. And if you are not crafty perhaps there is a local business near you. Would you consider approaching them on our behalf? If you would like to donate something please contact:

Charlotte Baxter
221 Stilson Road
Afton, NY 13730
607-967-8516

or

Walt Friebel
410 White Street
Waterville, NY 13480
315-841-8874

Woodlot Calendar

January 31-February 1, 2002 (Thursday-Friday)

The New York Society of American Foresters is holding its annual winter meeting on Thursday January 31 and Friday February 1 at the Holiday Inn, Liverpool. The theme is How Foresters Can Meet the Challenges of Tomorrow. It promises to be an interesting meeting for many NYFOA members. Current issues and problems will be discussed from the viewpoints of the forest owner, timber industry, and the consulting forester. Addresses are planned by several leaders of leading forestry centers of influence around the state. Leadership skills, forest certification, and trade with Canada round out the program. There will be the usual Poster session. NYFOA

members are invited to attend. For more information contact Hugh Canham at the College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY 13210: telephone (315) 470-6694, email: hocanham@esf.edu.

February 23, 2002 (Saturday)

Central NY Chapter NYFOA, Cornell Cooperative Extension and Department of Environmental Conservation will co-sponsor a forest stewardship workshop for farmers and woodlot owners attending the annual Farm Show at the NYS Fairgrounds February 21-23 in Syracuse. For information contact John Druke (315) 656-2313.

Treat a friend and Build NYFOA

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opportunity to permanently expand its membership, something that is needed to fulfill its mission in coming decades.

As a current NYFOA member you may purchase as many gift memberships you like. Recipients must not have held NYFOA membership during the past two years. Gift rates are good for the first year on membership only.

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List additional gifts on a separate sheet

The Oak Skeletonizer

DOUGLAS C. ALLEN

While walking around the Finger Lakes National Forest in October, I noticed extensive feeding by the **Oak Skeletonizer**. Following this I visited other oak stands in central New York and they, too, showed signs of similar leaf damage. This did not strike me as unusual, because oak skeletonizer is a ubiquitous associate of red oak in central and southern New York State. It seemed like a good subject to write about, though, because undoubtedly many forest owners see evidence of this caterpillar but rarely observe the insect itself. Many species in this family of moths feed on oak leaves and two very common species occur on birch and apple.

The life history of oak skeletonizer is characterized by two generations each year. Moths of the first generation appear in April and May, and caterpillars complete development by early summer. Second generation adults appear in July and August. The heaviest leaf damage typically occurs in September and early October, because

the caterpillars are usually most abundant at this time of year.

The **moth** has a wing span of only 0.3". Its forewings are dark with lighter colored areas encircled with black. Adults also are usually more numerous in the second generation. The small moths are readily noticed as they flit around the undersides of oak leaves in the process of depositing eggs. Fully grown **caterpillars** (Fig. 1) are approximately 0.2" long and yellowish to pale green.

The caterpillar has two life styles when it comes to feeding. Immediately after emerging from the egg it enters the leaf tissue and is a true leafminer for three to four weeks. At this time it remains hidden between the upper and lower leaf surfaces and feeds only on the soft tissue between. The result is a brownish, serpentine (narrow, winding) **leaf mine**. The discoloration occurs because neither the upper nor the lower epidermis ("skin") of a leaf contain chlorophyll. The chlorophyll bearing tissue in the mine is consumed by the insect. When

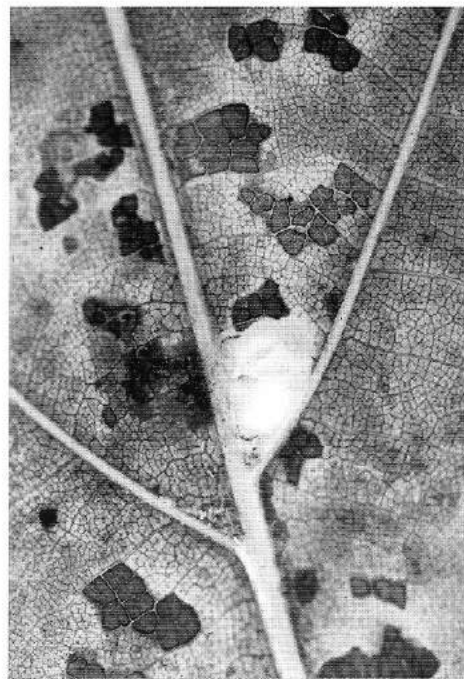


Figure 2 Silk case within which the caterpillar develops into its final stage.

the caterpillar emerges from the mine, it spins a circular webbing of silk (Fig. 2) on the underside of the leaf. Here it molts (changes) to the final stage of caterpillar development. These white spots of silk are quite conspicuous.

After molting, the now exposed caterpillar feeds externally on the undersurface of the leaf. It is at this time second generation caterpillars do the heaviest feeding and cause the most damage. "Skeletonizer" is really not the most accurate description of feeding damage caused by the older caterpillars. A true skeletonizer consumes all leaf tissue except major leaf veins, leaving a lacy network of the latter behind. To be more accurate, the oak skeletonizer should be called a "window feeder." This feeding behavior leaves the upper epidermis of the leaf, as well as major veins, intact (Figs. 1,2). When damaged foliage is held to the light, one can see through these light brown, translucent, window-like patches of leaf.

As feeding is completed, each caterpillar drops on a silken thread. When it contacts a substrate, such as another leaf, foliage on the ground or tree bark, it spins a bright white,

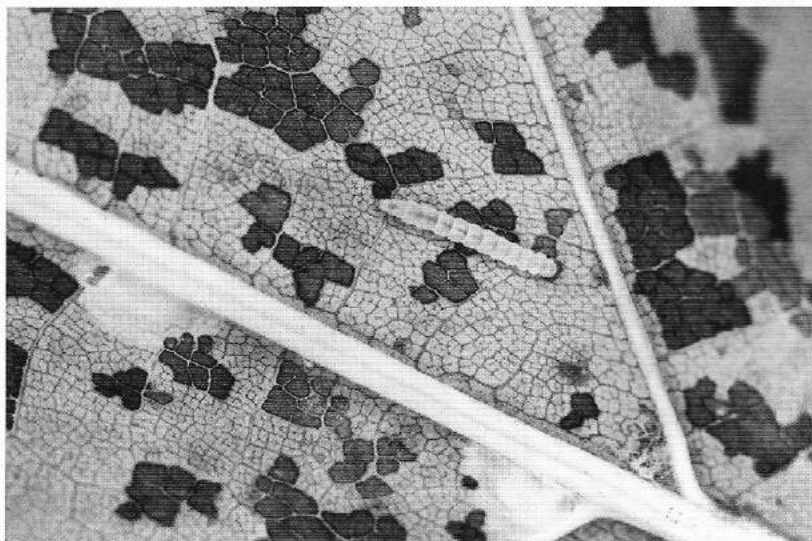


Figure 1 Mature caterpillar of oak skeletonizer surrounded by patches of "window feeding."

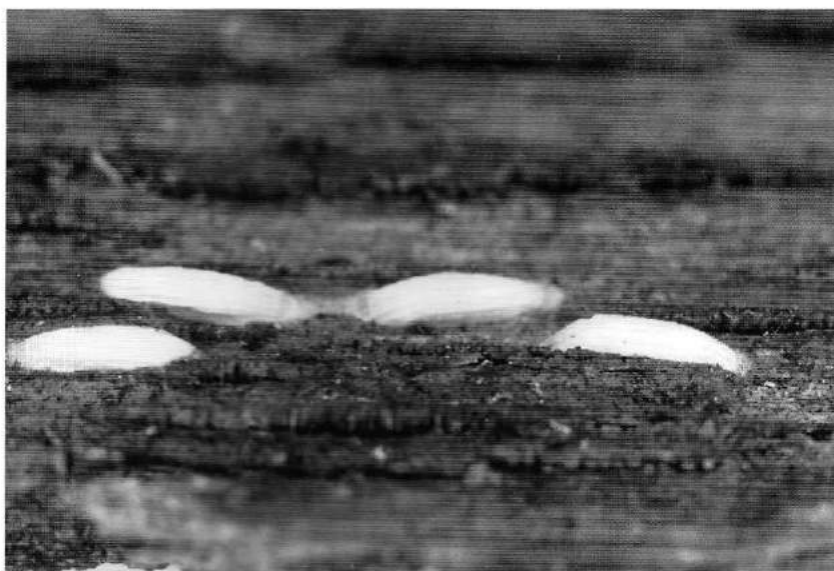


Figure 3 Cocoon of oak skeletonizer.

elongate cocoon approximately 0.1" long with distinct longitudinal ridges (Fig. 3). It spends the winter within this structure.

Leaf damage is very conspicuous by the time the second generation is done feeding in early fall. Though leaf damage may look extensive at this time of year (Fig. 4), one must remember this feeding occurs late in the growing season after most tree growth and nutrient storage have been completed.

Managing this insect is unnecessary under forest conditions. A homeowner, however, may be concerned about the appearance of foliage on an ornamental oak or shade tree. One way to lower the population of oak skeletonizer under these circumstances is to rake and burn foliage in late fall. A significant number of overwintering insects will be destroyed by this procedure. Even though numerous cocoons remain on tree bark, the caterpillars inside them do not benefit from the insulating effects of snow, and their exposure may make them more vulnerable to natural enemies. Consequently, they have a lower probability of surviving. ▲

This is the 60th in the series of articles contributed by Dr. Allen, Professor of Entomology at SUNY-ESF. It is possible to download this collection from the NYS DEC Web page at: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dlf/privland/forprot/health/nyfo/index.html>.



Figure 4 Bottom surface of a red oak leaf heavily damaged by oak skeletonizer. Note the two cocoons on the lower half and evidence of extensive feeding.

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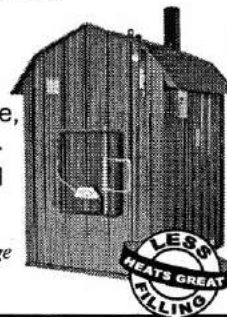
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STATEWIDE Fall Meeting 2001

CHARLIE MOWATT

The Statewide Fall Meeting is one of two Statewide meetings offered by NYFOA. The other is the Annual Meeting, held in Syracuse in the Spring. Focus on stateside meetings has shifted in recent years, due to the strengthening of the chapters. Chapters offer much of the programming and social fabric of NYFOA, without having to drive half (or all the way) across the State. It is regrettable, because these two functions offer the chance to meet NYFOA folks from other areas of the State.

All that notwithstanding, the Niagara Frontier and Allegheny Foothills Chapters hosted the 2001 Fall Meeting on the weekend of September 21-23, at Camp Duffield in Northeast Cattaraugus County. From every aspect, save one, it was a resounding success. The planning committee functioned very well in all regards;

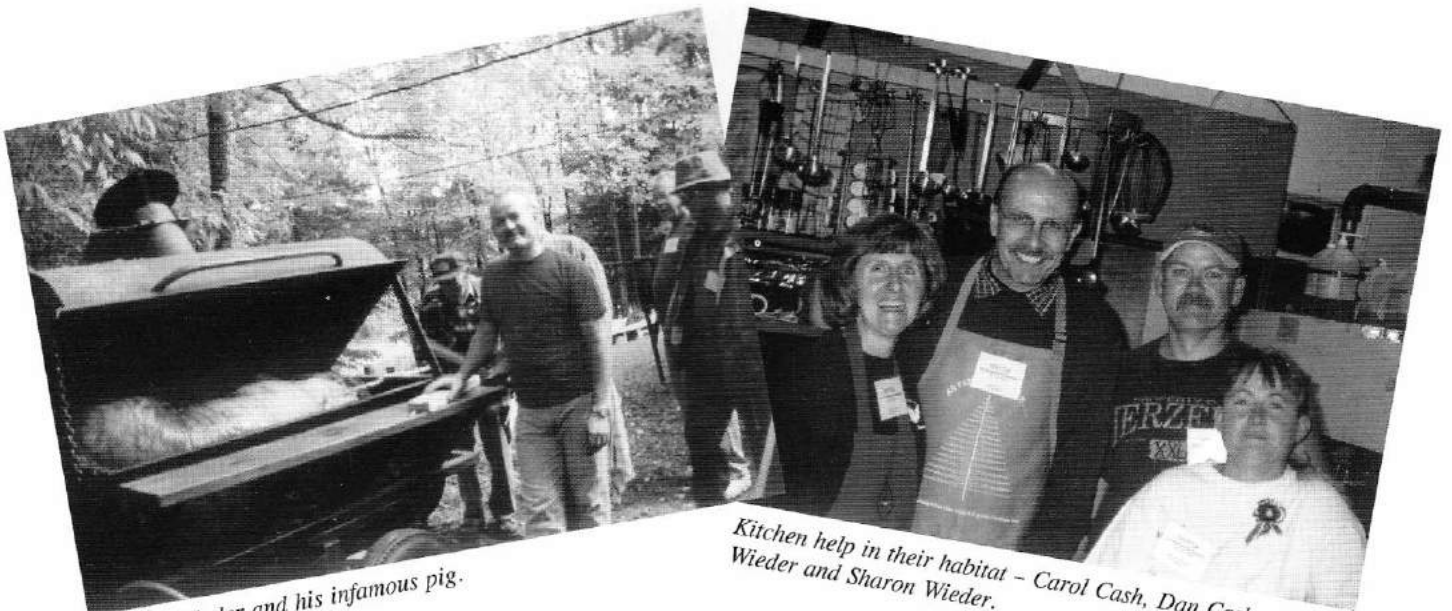
from facilities, food, registration, treasury, printed programs and logistics to musical entertainment, door prizes and a master of ceremonies who had a built-in sound system! The planning committee, once again, proved that participation carries most of the fun of such an event and all of the satisfaction of a job well done. Moreover, the event was a financial success; returning the seed money, plus \$225 to each chapter.

At the risk of offending someone by omission, I must commend the efforts of two couples, one from NFC and one from AFC, who performed far beyond the call of duty. Carole and Greg Northway hosted several planning committee meetings at their camp, "The Haven." Carole also scoured the Arcade area for program advertisements, door prizes and other donations. When the number of registrations appeared to be lower than anticipated,

she hopped on the phone and made over a hundred calls to local members to urge attendance at the meeting.

The other overachieving couple consisted of Sharon and Charlie Wieder. They accepted the task of providing the meals for the entire weekend. They not only provided sustenance, they produced the hallmark of the 2001 Fall Meeting: a pig roast. Yes, a real pig on a spit. And was it ever delicious. At the end of the feast, that one pig had stuffed fifty two-legged little piggies.

There were many other contributors to the success of the event, for which NYFOA offers sincere appreciation. The only shortcoming was the number of attendees. Only fifty NYFOA members attended any part of the program designed to accommodate 150. To those who missed the event, I say, "Sorry folks, it was your loss. We had a ball!" 🐷



Charlie Wieder and his infamous pig.

Kitchen help in their habitat - Carol Cash, Dan Cash, Charlie Wieder and Sharon Wieder.



Inspecting logs in the yard at Trathen Lumber Company.



Visit to Trathen Lumber Company.



Carole Northway and Marion Mowatt with a cake donated for the meeting by Tops.

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Internet Resources to Connect Private Woodland Owners

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www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/forestrypage

**Cornell University Master Forest Owner/COVERTS
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www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/mfo

National Agroforestry Center
www.unl.edu/nac/

National Christmas Tree Association
www.christree.org

**New York State Department of Environmental
Conservation**
www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dlf/

New York Institute of Consulting Foresters
host.berk.com/~NYICF

Society American Foresters
www.safnet.org

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
www.esf.edu

**USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry
Homepage**
www.na.fs.fed.us/

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
www.nrcs.usda.gov

**USDA Forest Service Landowners Guide to Internet
Resources**
www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/misc/ir/index.htm

University of Maryland Natural Resource Management
www.naturalresources.umd.edu

Virtual Forestry Library
www.metla.fi/info/vlib/Forestry/



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

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WANTED:

NYFOA Membership Suggestions for Nominations
for the 2002 Heiberg Memorial Award
and the
NYFOA Outstanding Service Award for 2002

Due no later than February 15, 2002 for presentation at the NYFOA Spring Membership Meeting on March 16, 2002 in Syracuse.

Contact: Bob Sand, Awards Chair
300 Church St. Odessa, NY 14869 (607) 595 2130

Or to Committee Members:

Charles Mowatt	(716) 676 3617
Peter Gregory	(518) 399 1812
Ann Osborn	(845) 424 3683
Pat Ward	(315) 268 0902

Over The River & Through the Woods...

WALT FRIEBEL

Yes, over the Schoharie River and through Route 20 woods we went to accept the general invitation put out for the Capital District Chapter's Christmas Party and program Saturday, December 1st at Bethany Presbyterian Church in Menands.

The unusually mild weather made for wonderful driving conditions and the detailed map in CDC's newsletter made it easy for us to make the party's 5:00 p.m. start. Walking into the church we were struck by a wall of wonderful evergreen aroma as a hands-on craft table had been set up so attendees could try their hand at making evergreen center pieces in various sized wicker baskets to take home.

We were greeted by Hans and Joan Kappel of Altamont, party chairs, and

Art Coleman, CDC Chapter Director, who kidded us that we'd forgotten to bring him his chain saw. He had not previously been notified and little did he know he'd actually won the saw in a raffle held by the Central New York Chapter, which was in support of their youth scholarship fund.

After bringing in our contribution to the tables overflowing with potluck dishes and even more tables for dessert, we returned to our vehicle. From it we retrieved a very large Christmas paper wrapped box with an ominous protrusion, also wrapped, from the side of it. Needless to say when we reentered the party, there was a certain person's jaw solidly implanted on the floor. Knowing those Capital District Chapter members, Art Coleman is still getting ribbed.

Those of you still holding non-winning tickets can set up custody arrangements for visitation or contact Art for custom cutting of your woodlot - that's if you can pry his jaw off the floor.

A wonderful pre- and post-dinner time was spent viewing the Chapter display board and table as well as participating in their "guess the wood" game. Some swore that block in the center of the game was a foreign species from overseas. It stumped everyone.

To top all that, at 7 p.m. the highlight of the party was a slide presentation by the Taconic Valley Historical Society on charcoal making in Eastern Rensselaer County from the 1700s until just recently. An extremely profitable

continued on page 22

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Over the River (continued from page 21)

spring operation, it was a very significant source of income for many farm families. It was an unbelievably arduous job chopping trees for weeks prior to gathering for the burn pit, setting it up, layering it with hay and dirt, and finally running a controlled burn for days to produce the charcoal. It was then dug from the pit, bagged and lastly taken for sale to city iron mills, as its hot burn temperatures were responsible for producing excellent metal. Farmers also sold door to door along the route to supplement coal sales – eggs, vegetables, fruits, crafts and various game.

Many of the CDC members reminisced about their springtime experiences breathing the healthful/dangerous smoke – depending on an individual's point of view. This presented an alternative forest crop few of us know or have heard about.

After good-byes we snaked the route around the State Capitol until just west

of it, when we happened on some puzzling activity at Washington Park. We had accidentally lucked into Albany's drive through Christmas display. The miles of park roads were loaded with every imaginable type of lighted decorations from life sized to gigantic. It concluded at the Lake House, a large three story community building bursting at the seams with a sale by Christmas crafters of their wares. Of special appeal, set up in the large egg shaped amphitheater usually reserved for summer concerts by the Albany Symphony Orchestra, was a one and a half story tall tinsel created teddy bear, lit with colored lights and looking like it would under the tree. A true show stopper!

Capital District – you've outdone yourselves. What's up your sleeve for next year? ▲

Walt Friebe is a member of the CNY chapter of NYFOA.

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Materials submitted for the March/April issue should be sent to Mary Beth Malmshemer, Editor, *The New York Forest Owner*, 134 Lincklaen Street, Cazenovia, NY 13035, (315) 655-4110 or via e-mail at mmalmshe@syr.edu. Articles, artwork and photos are invited and if requested, are returned after use.



**Deadline for material is
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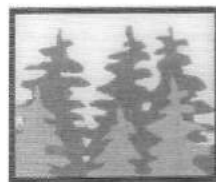
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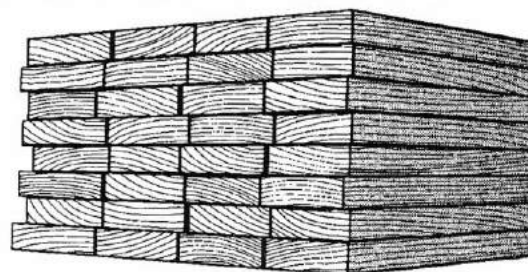
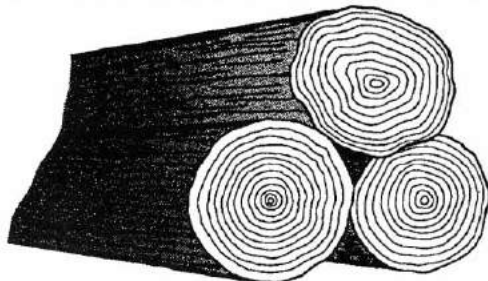
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