The New York Forest Owner

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THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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The New York Woodland Stewards, Inc. (NYWS) is a 501(c)3 foundation of NYFOA and tax deductible donations to this organization will advance NYFOA's educational mission.

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The New York Forest Owner

A Publication of The New York Forest Owners Association

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Please address all membership fees and change of address requests to P.O. Box 180, Fairport, N.Y. 14450. 1-800-836-3566. Cost of family membership/subscription is \$30.

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Cover:

The cover photo shows one of the most stubborn of the invasive plant species, Purple Loosestrife. For Part II of the Invastive Plant series see page 10. Photograph courtesy of Bob Berkemeir.

From President

It is exciting to see and learn about NYFOA members sharing their views and experiences. There are great examples in every chapter newsletter I receive. And, judging by the small sample I know of first hand, there are many more events on your calendars documenting outreach and participation.

For example, NYFOA members across the state are contributing to the Stewardship Plan Improvement workshops developed jointly by Cornell's Department of Natural Resources, The US Forest Service, and DEC. Landowners, private forestry consultants, and Cooperative Extension



educators are working with the sponsors to improve preparation of stewardship management plans, while making the plans more useful to

the landowners. Previous plans are being painstakingly dissected to identify features that define excellence or mediocrity, and features that foster or discourage followthrough by owners.

NYFOA members are on the advisory group on timber theft established by State Senators McGee and Hoffmann in follow-up to their statewide hearings last year. Numerous proposals made to sharpen law enforcement and to help prevent timber theft are being reviewed. Attention by the Legislature raises awareness of the challenges to landowners, to law enforcement, to loggers, to foresters, and to buyers and mill owners.

In January I was invited to speak to the New York Society of American Foresters (NYSAF). I urged the NYSAF to take the lead in building a new coalition of forest and natural resource interests to more effectively reach landowners and the public on the importance of and benefits from private forest land ownership. I noted the responsibility of private landowners as custodians of New York scenery, oxygen generation, wildlife and pure water sources, and the need to distinguish between public

lands, and public benefits derived from private lands.

Foresters have huge responsibilities too, and I pointed to studies showing the extent of high grading and the ethical questions raised by marking timber for a commission-based fee. Any clouds on the credibility of the forestry profession, whether real or perceived, tend to work against NYFOA members, forest owners who are the targets of our outreach, and the publics which need to better understand the role of forest resources in our environmental, economic, and social lives.

Also in recent weeks, I've participated in meetings on research and programs at the College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and at Cornell University.

Dr. Edwin White, Dean of Research at ESF, hosted representatives of the forest industry and DEC, along with faculty and staff to review the importance of forestry-related research at the College. The focus was on "McIntire-Stennis" funding for forest and natural resources research. This federal support is particularly important to ESF because the funds often serve as a base upon which other funding can be sought. This stakeholder advisory committee will help to select next year's projects for funding.

Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Cornell University Agricultural Research Station are working to more closely integrate research and extension programming. Teams of stakeholders, faculty, staff, and extension educators are working in numerous program areas, including "Agroforestry and Private Woodlands Management." These teams come together through an umbrella Natural Resources and Environmental Program Council, representative of a wide array of natural resource interests and concerns, including lakes and waterfronts, pesticides/ herbicides, fish and wildlife, animal wastes, fertilizer, forests, indoor air, open space, and population. Being a part of the council is a simulating and rewarding experience.

I look forward to seeing many of you at NYFOA's spring program meeting on March 16th.

> -Ron Pedersen President

NYFOA is a not-for-profit group of NY State landowners promoting stewardship of private forests for the benefit of current and future generations. Through local chapters and statewide activities, NYFOA helps woodland owners to become responsible stewards and interested publics to appreciate the importance of New York's forests.

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In The MAIL

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Response to Timber Theft

Regarding Mike Greason's excellent article on timber theft in the January/ February 2002 issue, it absolutely amazes me that local district attorneys shy away from prosecuting this crime. If some sixteen year old kid knocks over a gas station for sixty bucks with a fake gun, these guys are all over him. But when someone like Greason's client loses tens of thousands of dollars in a blatant act of theft, they can't seem to be bothered.

In the past NYFOA has partnered with the Empire State Forest Products Association (ESFPA) to pass legislation which strengthen enforcement and

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e-mail brobin@netsync.net 1894 CAMP ST. EXT. JAMESTOWN, NY 14701 recovery for timber theft (see Chapters 301 and 658 of the Laws of 1997).

Clearly, more needs to be done. I again urge NYFOA and ESFPA members to join together supporting legislation that will address this serious problem.

As long as unscrupulous operators can continue to profit with no more than a slap on the wrist, no wood lot will be safe from their crooked deeds.

> -Edward G. Wright Clarence, NY

Crop Tree Release

Thanks to Jim Martin for his thoughtful comments on my article in the September/October 2001 issue on crop tree release. I think Arlyn Perkey is one of the finest silviculturists I have known.

However, in my article I was concerned that I was giving advice on tree selection to a diverse group of readers with equally diverse woodlot situations. Therefore, I was deliberately conservative in my recommendations. I was offering guidance where the woodlot owner may not be able to get assistance from a DEC service forester and might

not want the expense of hiring a consultant. I envisioned a situation where this is the first entry into the stand to thin and help the best trees grow a little faster and to prevent stagnation. The owner might be dealing with a red pine plantation growing on clay soils over shale, an early successional red maple white pine stand invading an old pasture, or a prime northern hardwood pole stand of sugar maple. Possibly the needs are different; consequently I chose to be conservative.

You do not want to expose your stand to sunscalding or windthrow by thinning too heavily. You do not want to degrade your crop trees nor lose potential income from some trees which may be marketable in ten years, yet you want the forest vigorous and healthy. Being conservative allows you to re-enter the stand to cut more in the future. And, when in doubt, you can always hire a forester to help.

Again, thanks Jim for keeping the dialog going; that helps the *Forest Owner* be an effective educational resource.

Mike Greason
 Catskill, NY

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Opinion: Trade Twists

ERIC A. JOHNSON

ometimes you can cover a lot of ground with one short conversation and not even realize it until later. Such was the case as I looked over a load of nice firewood logs that my favorite logger was preparing to dump in my back yard.

"Nobody is buying beech sawlogs these days," he said with a sigh, "and of course the pulp market is completely gone around here. So, I brought you a pretty exceptional load of wood."

"What about that softwood you were working on last time we talked?" I inquired, as I admired the tri-axle load of clean, straight beech that will keep my family cozy all next winter, come what may.

"Well the spruce is supposed to go up to Canada, but the guy I'm selling it to is having trouble coming up with the trucks, so I've got about five loads sitting on the landing waiting for a ride – and I'm getting sick of plowing around them." He added that he won't see any payment until the logs are shipped.

He said he was surviving on higher grade sawlogs – mostly hard maple and black cherry – and whatever loglength firewood he could manage to sell.

This brief exchange pretty well sums up what's wrong with timber markets in north central New York State, and I suspect it's not much different in much of the rest of the Northeast. The truly dismal pulpwood situation across the region is, unfortunately, nothing new, and a slowdown in the demand for pallet-grade logs is about what you would expect in a recession economy.

But this business about the spruce sitting on the landing is a disturbing new development, considering that the softwood sawlog market should be one of the few bright spots at a time when housing starts are surprisingly strong. You'd think the demand for framing lumber would, as a result, be fairly robust. So what's the holdup?

While there is currently no legal restriction on the export of sawlogs to Canada, the new tariffs imposed on Canadian lumber imports are hurting not only Canadian mills, but loggers and landowners in the northern United States who supply them, as well.

There are two direct impacts that the new duties, which total 32 percent, have on the industry in this part of the country. First, these tariffs have succeeded in their goal of making the Canadian product less competitive, thus giving an advantage – and presumably greater market share – to domestically-produced lumber. In this case, that means southern yellow pine from places like Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. The net effect is less lumber milled in Canada and more milled in the South.

Since softwood logs grown in states like New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine are a big part of the Canadian raw material flow, less production means less demand for softwood timber cut by loggers in the Northeast and Lake States.

The second part of the equation involves trucking. One of the advantages Canadian mills have always enjoyed is that the same trucks used to deliver construction lumber to wholesalers and retail outlets in the Northeast are also used to haul new logs back to the mills in what amounts to a continuous production stream. Naturally, fewer lumber deliveries translate into fewer backhauls, and the stream is interrupted, hurting loggers like my friend.

People who promote tariffs on Canadian lumber always claim that their cause is justified by unfair Canadian trade practices and artificially low pricing for governmentowned stumpage, despite the reality that – in the Northeast at least – much of the raw material originates on this side of the border. The tariff, they argue, simply serves to level the playing field, allowing domestic mills to compete in the marketplace.

But if you look at who is most actively behind the Canadian lumber tariff, it's clear that most of the lobbying muscle is represented by the South and West. These are, not coincidentally, two regions that stand to gain market share from everyone involved in the production of northern softwood construction lumber. That includes not only Canadian mills and loggers, but their U.S. counterparts as well.

As a lifelong believer in free trade, I am instinctively skeptical about arguments like those made in favor of the Canadian lumber tariff, partly because they tend to be dominated by powerful special interests, and in part because they are inflationary and violate the spirit – if not the actual

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NYFOA Scholarship Fund

As of February 1, 2002, the NYFOA Endowed Scholarship Fund that is administered by the SUNY ESF College Foundation, Inc. has a fund balance of \$21,624



Wood Lot Tools and Equipment (Free Advice...Work Safely)

PATRICK H. KELLY

hat tools and equipment do I need to work in my woods?" This is a rather common question asked of me by wood lot owners. Usually the question is asked by new wood lot owners with an urban or suburban background. For many, part of the enjoyment of owning a patch of woods is the active work involved in keeping their forest healthy and productive. The work is usually directly related to implementation of one's forest management objectives.

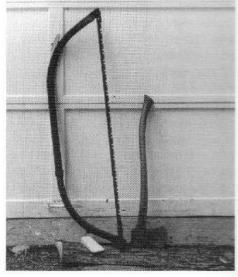
How does one reply to a direct question such as this not knowing the experience and skills level of this would-be woodsman? The advice may be free, but a quick flippant answer would no doubt be of little value and rather redundant. Perhaps begin by answering a question with a question or two. The answers forthcoming and further discussion reveal a new wood lot owner with limited woods tool skills. With this person at this time, the scenario evolving seems to indicate a need to obtain fundamental experience using the basic hand tools. As the discussion continues we formulate ideas as to the amount of time and labor associated with the anticipated woods work. Finally in exasperation, or desperation, the owner wants answers, not evasions. As the disseminator of all this free advice, and not being much of a politician, I'm finally cornered. So hesitantly I suggest a good single bit axe, a good bucksaw (adjustable frame), possibly a splitting maul and a wheel-barrow-the latter two items if making fuel wood is an objective. Oh, and yes, a little yellow plastic wedge. Never, never forget the little yellow plastic wedge.

If it is a he I am giving all this free

advice to I get an immediate blank stare. Then with a quizzical expression, "How about a chainsaw?" A wild guess told me this was coming before we started. Everyone has viewed the chainsaw ads—the athletic looking fellow in a Pendelton like shirt, immaculate khaki trousers tucked into hi-top boots, cutting (or appears to be cutting) fire wood with a shiny new chainsaw. The rustic log cabin with wilderness looking background helps make a beautiful setting. What would-be woodsman can resist this pitch?

About to blurt out, "You're not suicidal are you?" I manage a smile and suggest taking some time to become somewhat proficient with the hand tools before going the chainsaw route. Quickly continuing to explain (before getting another question) that before getting into chainsaws, one should proceed cautiously. Talk to a chainsaw user experienced and knowledgeable about all phases of cutting trees. Go to a reputable dealer. Don't be shy about telling him you know absolutely nothing about chainsaws. With a few questions a good dealer may be able to give a person some sound advice, some free instruction and even allow one, with his guidance, to try out a saw on the big old log he has out back. A good dealer should also be able to give some tips on saw operator safety and personal safety accessories suggested and required for professionals. The complete outfitting is not cheap but worth the money. It's your personal safety we are talking about.

That isn't all. The would-be chainsaw operator should find out about instruction on the chainsaw use. Likely sources of help as to where and



A bucksaw, good single bit axe, and plastic yellow wedge are some of the tools Patrick Kelly suggests.

when are the local cooperative extension, a computer connected to the web and, and if you are a NYFOA member try their hot line (here I make a pitch for joining NYFOA). There are many on-going training sessions and seminars, for example NY Logger Training's "The Game of Logging."

Before a person does obtain a chainsaw it is good to make sure the saw has the latest safety features. Chain brake, easy access kill switch and more. The correct chain can make a big difference too. Be familiar with your saw end to end, top to bottom and more. Practice on some fire wood logs with an experienced cutter standing by before marching off into the woods with a lethal weapon.

By now the advisee is starting to think I am some kind of an expert, slightly demented and long winded. With a hardy and sincere "Good luck" to the aspiring would-be woodsman I creak into the pick up, wait for the cramps in my legs to dissipate, then head for home.

The next scenario relates to the forest owner with more "woods experience" and the proud owner of a chainsaw. This person (usually a male) often wishes to add a little more power to his operation. Implementation of one's forest management objectives (especially Timber Stand Improvement or TSI and crop tree management) often become dependant upon the tools and equipment at your disposal. Hiring out this type of work without the incentive of a timber cut is usually next to impossible. "Do it yourself," soon becomes a very necessary option.

The chainsaw, fuel can, bar oil, axe, maybe a peavy, and hip pockets full of little yellow plastic wedges make quite a load especially if you have to lug them very far down into the woods. A pickup truck, even four wheel drive can't go to all places.

This forest owner's question goes something like this, "Gee, I could sure use more motor power to get me about the woods and maybe drag out some firewood logs to the good road. I see some people using small, old farm tractors. What do you think?" Keep your thoughts to yourself rushed through my mind. Fatigued by the hike through the woods my mind had switched to rest mode. Not thinking, I proceeded to tell him what I thought (the amount is open to conjecture). Walking and talking, the discussion for the next half hour centered on the advantages and disadvantages of the small rubber tired tractor and other engine powered pulling machines adaptable in woods work. Actually a person culling out a few acres of his wood lot for stand improvement, gaining a few cords of stove wood in the process, sure doesn't need a lot of "iron."

However, a low Horse Power motive force can be a real asset to the forest owner. The subject of engine power in forestry can be very open ended covering a wide spectrum. The bantam size prime movers range from

the small walk-in-front tracked skidder and walk-behind powered cart to ride on tracked and wheel skidding machines. Many are designed to fit in the box of a pickup for transport. Certainly the wood lot owner has a wide selection to choose from to meet his needs and circumstances. We discuss the subject in generalities not specifics. Not wanting to be worked into a corner with the expert label, but warming to the subject I relate how a four wheeler (ATV) seems to work for some. Especially if the load is light and the haul down grade. All sorts of accessories are available for them making work in the woods a lot of fun. Adding, it can be very dangerous.

He tells of a friend who recently bought an old farm tractor that seems to be working out well for him. Rubber tires, wide front end, between 20 and 30 HP, uses oil, seals leak but then it is not used that much and his friend likes to tinker it. Glancing at my watch, thinking this could go on and on, I mention tinkering is alright if you like freezing your fingers off tinkering it back in the woods when the thing quits with the temperature well below freezing. My grin was not reassuring to him.

An hour later we more or less came to the conclusion that old or new, general purpose or one of those sleek continued on page 8

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Wood Lot Tools (continued from page 7)

looking little Scandinavian imports especially designed for the forestry community, it all boils down to one's individual needs, desires, finances and the wife's approval. Characteristics like 2WD or 4WD, diesel or gasoline, the accessories available, safety (operator protection), center of gravity, old vs. new, all go out the window if the Mrs. won't go along with your schemes.

Keep in mind we are thinking only in terms of wood lot maintenance and recreational usage. Timber harvests are best left to the professionals. Usage and misusage, I try to make this would-be equipment operator think safety.

The tried, trite but true safety precautions we can all do well to observe regardless of age and those many years of experience. Such as one operator, no riders, and don't try a job larger or wrong for your equipment. Cut and maintain good roads, swamp out all brush, stumps at ground level, and remove overhanging limbs. Avoid sharp turns, steep slopes and other terrain where machine rollover is possible. Never hitch to a hydraulically raised draw bar, (some may question this) although doing so may raise the load above obstructions. Hitching to, then raising the draw bar so the load clears obstructions is asking for serious trouble. The tractor becomes "light on the front end" making steering difficult or impossible. This type of hitching can also cause certain tractors to flip over

backward (wind up). These are but a few of the factors the tractor and or equipment operator should be cognizant of. A good common sense approach to this phase of wood land management saves many a day.

Recently it was reported in the news of a fellow pulling out brush with a farm tractor. The tractor "wound up" going over backward crushing him to death. How many times through the years have we heard like reports? Chainsaw accidents are so common place they don't make the news. Be careful, use good judgement, don't be in a hurry.

That was what I "thought," hadn't he asked me? Hopefully this wood lot owner will temper his enthusiasm for engine power with a degree of caution. Choosing and using tools and powered equipment for one's wood lot should be done with care and forethought for one's safety and well being. Talk with and see what the other fellow is doing. His experiences may be helpful to your situation. Working in your forest should be a happy productive occasion ending without a trip to the emergency room or worse.

The shadows of the trees are rapidly lengthening to the east as we trudge in silent contemplation along the woods trail to the waiting vehicles. Abruptly the vehicles appear. Leaning on the front fenders of the pickup, catching our breaths, I open the conversation by thanking him for the opportunity to walk the woods and hope the few tips on crop

tree management are helpful. He in turn thanks me, adding he has a better perspective of power tool and equipment options, and above all safety.

We drive our separate ways from the darkening woods, tired but with a feeling of accomplishment. Perhaps having gained a bit more woods wisdom from the encounter—"free advice" and leg cramps not withstanding.

Patrick H. Kelly is a member of the CAY chapter of NYFOA and is a MFO.

Editors Note: NY Logger Training recommends that chaps and face protection should also be used when working with a chainsaw.

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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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NEWS & NOTES

White Spruce Seedlings

On Saturday, May 4, 2002, 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 moss and need only be lifted by means of a garden fork, which will be available.

This year will be the 13th 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.

Signs at Logging Sites

The Forest Resources Association announced a program they have for putting signs at logging sites to educate the public. The signs can be viewed along with a price list, information about the signs and an order form, at www.forestresources.org/, click on "Timber Harvesting Signs". The signs are not proprietary and other logos such as Tree Farmer, Forest Stewardship, State forestry or others could be added, depending on the person paying for the signs.

Download Publications

For members who have computers or have access to one, you can download a number of publications on Forest and Tree Health and Fact Sheets. Some of the topics include release of crop trees, hazardous defects, pruning trees, and identifying and controlling diseases. The web address is: www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/fth pub pages/howto.htm.

Opinion (continued from page 5)

wording of – the North American Free Trade Agreement. But even if I didn't have philosophical objections to this kind of protectionism, I would oppose it in this case because it hurts those who can least afford the extra burden at a time when most of their other marketing options seem to be disappearing.

I'm also more than a little concerned that protectionist fever, once it gets a foothold in the forest products industry, could spiral out of control, resulting in a truly crippling development like an outright ban on all log exports. How many readers do you think would benefit from that?

Eric A. Johnson is editor of "The Northern Logger and Timber Processor." This opinion column originally appeared in the February 2002 issue of "The Northern Logger and Timber Processor" and is reprinted with their permission.





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- Preferred location: approximately 25 miles south, east or west of Whitney Point, NY
- Participation limited to 8 safe, responsible people

If interested contact:

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Invasive Plants - Part II

BOB BERKEMEIR

n the last issue of the Forest Owner we discussed what invasive plants were and described some of the characteristics which help them to be more competitive than the native plants. In this issue we will focus in greater detail on some of the specific plants that are included on the Invasive Plant List created by the Invasive Plant Council of New York State.

Let's start with Common Phragmites, often called Common Reed (Phragmites australis or communis) and not to be confused with Reeds Canary grass which is (Phalaris arundinacea) planted for use with hay crops. Phragmites is the plant usually found in wet areas including swamps and drainage ditches. It's characterized by being 5-8 feet tall with a plume which is the flower and seed head. This plume becomes quite fluffy and as it dries in the fall and winter the seed is dispersed by wind and is light enough to float on any water movement. You will not find it in any cultivated fields nor wet lawns etc. as long as they are mowed or cut. However, if this plant gets started in a ditch next to your lawn or a crop field



Garlic Mustard

and is not destroyed. it will send out runners. These runners can be as long as 10 feet and send up new shoots off each runner every 6 to 12 inches. Each year the plant will continue to add new runners. Phragmites can clog drainage ditches and outlets and has adapted to grow about anywhere in NYS that has water Crown Vetch and topsoil. How to control it? Don't let it

get started. Like most of the invasive plants, it does not have many natural controls like disease or insect pests.

Buckthorn. There are two species, Smooth (Rhamnus frangula) and Common (Rhamnus cathartica). Although both are in the buckthorn family, only common has thorns. Both are tall shrubs or small trees and grow up to 20 feet. Other names are European buckthorn, and Alder leaf buckthorn. It has a small cluster of flowers in late May to early June, but its most distinguishing feature is its black fruit in the late fall after all the leaves have fallen. One other note for identification is the leaf veins. Looking at a leaf, as the veins go out from the base of the leaf and reach the edge they will continue along the edge of the leaf. This is a very uncommon characteristic. Both are imports from Europe and Asia although there are some native varieties which are rather rare in our area. The big concern is the dense thickets which it creates in almost any abandoned field, edges of woods and in some of the rare plant habitats in New York State.

Black Swallow-wort (Cynanchum louiseae and C. rossicum). Also called



climbing milkweed. This is a twisty perennial vine growing up to 18 inches tall, and under good conditions may reach 5 feet or more. It's a member of the milkweed family. Blossoms are the most interesting. They are bronze or purple, star shaped and look like fake blossoms. Its seed pods look like small swamp milkweed pods. They are glossy and prefer rather dry areas. Black Swallow-wort become a very invasive plant in the non-crop areas like hedgerows, pastures, Christmas tree plantations, abandoned fields and edges of woodlots where the soil is alkaline and fairly dry.

Black Locust (Robinia pseudoacacia). An invasive plant because it will not only self seed, but will also send out root sprouts. However, this plant has a lot of good things going for it. The blossoms are very fragrant and delicious to bees. The blossoms, leaves and young small plants (before the thorns begin) are very edible and livestock will eagerly seek them for a delicacy. The wood is very durable and planted most often for future fence posts. It is also a great firewood. Furthermore, this plant is a true soil builder because it produces nitrogen in

its roots which can be utilized in the soil. It is a native of the northeast, although not New York State. It is competitive enough to outgrow most native tree species in this area and with the right conditions, may create its own woodlots.

Crown vetch (Coronilla Varia). Not related to our native vetch varieties like Hairy vetch or Purple vetch, although all the vetch varieties are in the pea family. Crown vetch is a native of the countries surrounding the Mediterranean Sea. It has the typical vetch or pea type growth, with weak stems and a tendency to sprawl as it grows more mature. The blossoms are pinkish and seed pods are segmented. It has been studied since the late 1890s although intensive research was not begun until the 1950s. It is a great cover for banks and steep slopes, is long lived and spreads by both root growth and seeds. Crown vetch can be very competitive and tends to out compete other grasses and plants. It tolerates a variety of soil conditions, including very dry ones and only dislikes wetness and shade. It can be used for pasture and hay crops and although it is high in protein it appears to not be a favored variety for livestock.

Garlic Mustard (Alliaria petiolata). A biennial plant and probably one of the earliest to blossom in the spring. It has white blossoms on stalks 3-4 feet tall. The leaves are wedge or heart shaped and serrated or notched. It has a garlic-like smell but you need to crush a leaf and smell closely to tell. It is the only mustard member with white blossoms. The plant is very competitive but prefers to be under the cover of a tree or in a woods. Will tolerate any spot which is damp and with shade. Not seen in cultivated areas or lawns, but along roadsides and in hedgerows it can be the dominant plant in April. Like most of its family, growth starts the fall before and a rosette is formed before winter. The next spring, a new plant is ready to begin to make its own seed. Other members of the family include everything from cabbage to radishes, to dames rocket and even horse radish.

Purple Loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria). Also called spiked loosestrife. In late summer almost all our swamps and wet areas will be full of a very reddish purple (magenta) colored plant that is 4-6 feet tall. A perennial, when in blossom, can look like it is the only plant growing in that place. The only redeeming plant feature is the fact that bees like its blossom, and it's also very pretty. Otherwise, it is a highly competitive pest and will choke out almost all native plants which do have wildlife value. Imported from Europe in the 1800s, it now exists in over 40 states. Many states have laws to prohibit its sale because it is such a noxious weed. There are lots of native cousins yet most are very rare. Almost all are either yellow or white blossomed although a few varieties have pink blossoms.

Spotted or bushy knapweed (Centaurea maculosa). This alien originated in eastern Europe and western Asia. It was imported along with other crop seeds at a time when no one realized how devastating some of the weeds could become. A perennial, and quite common, it prefers rather dry and infertile soils and can become the only plant in certain situations. For this reason there is a real concern about this plant, not only in New York State



Japanese Knotweed

but out west. This plant now exists in almost every state, grows 2-3 feet tall and has a rather wiry stem. Blossoms can be white, but most generally are pink or purple. The blossoms look sort of like an aster crossed with a thistle. A close cousin, the bachelor's button, has a similar flower. It has other cousins who are native to this area and as usual are rather rare.

Japanese Knotweed (Polygonum cuspidatum). Also known as Japanese bamboo. This is one of those perennial plants which is given to a friend

continued on page 15

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Master Forest Owner (MFO) Class of 2001

RICHARD TABER

he Master Forest Owner (MFO) program provides private, non-industrial forest owners of New York State with the information and encouragement necessary to manage their forest properties for a variety of multiple use purposes. The MFOs attend a three and a half day training program held in September each year, at Cornell University's Arnot Forest. The attendees learn about a whole variety of forest related topics, including sawtimber and wildlife management, silviculture, woodland economics, and ecology.

Each MFO graduate then serves as an ambassador of woodland stewardship, voluntarily visiting landowners who seek assistance in managing their properties. The MFO can make suggestions, and steer the landowner in directions where they might seek further assistance.

This year's MFO class consisted of 32 men and women from all over the Empire State. We arrived late on Wednesday, September 19, and were constantly involved in one activity or another until we left this wonderful ecosystem on Sunday at noon.

I myself had never been to Cornell's Forest, a 4,000 acre property of forested upland. The Arnot Teaching and Research Forest, the "Arnot," is situated in the hilly, forested Southern Tier region of New York State, located in a remote corner of Schuyler County, not too far from Van Etten. The forest is managed by the Department of Natural Resources in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS).

The current Arnot Forest results from a long history of changing land-use patterns, and presents an opportunity to study the long-term consequences of these changes.

It is an ideal place to host the MFO training, which is jointly sponsored by The Ruffed Grouse Society, the Wentorf Foundation, and NY Woodlands Stewards Inc.

Throughout the weekend, we had 23 different speakers address us and involve us in learning activities. On Wednesday evening, we were introduced to the program by Gary Goff, Director of the program, and Peter Smallidge, the State Extension Forester.

Throughout the four-day program, we listened to speakers from the Department of Environmental Conservation, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell University, and several private landowners and MFO graduates from previous classes.

We went on several excellent field trips as well. We visited the Wagner Lumber Company in nearby Cayuta,



The Wagner Lumber Company Yard, in Cayuta, New York



A group photo of the 2001 MFO class in the Arnot forest near the forest demonstration area

and received insights into how logs are graded for quality, as well as a mill tour. We also visited a logging job in Tompkins County, and saw some excellent examples of good forest harvesting practices.

We took part in several exercises in the forest itself. We learned about land navigation, wildlife and sawtimber management, crop tree management, "the goats in the woods project," and managing woodlands for reptiles and amphibians.

After all of this good training, we were then charged with a mission. The MFO graduates are expected to visit at least five different landowners throughout the course of the year, offering advice and assistance. The ultimate goal is proper stewardship of the land; an MFO can assist landowners who might not have any idea of where to turn for help. My own interest in landowner activities certainly received a "shot in the arm" from the Arnot Forest and MFO training.

Richard Taber is a member of the Central New York Chapter Of NYFOA.

For more information on the Master Forest Owner program contact Gary Goff, Director of the MFO program, at (607) 255-2824 or grg3@cornell.edu

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Education and More

WALT FRIEBEL

Missed out? You certainly did if you were not in attendance for the Northern Area Fall Master Forest Owner (MFO) Refresher and Educational workshop held at the SUNY ESF Ranger School in Wanakena, NY on November 3, 2001.

Setting off at 6:30 am, the air was brisk and a lovely trip it was, up into the great Adirondack Forest. Highlights on the way included a stop at Scanlons Bakery in Harrisville for thick gooey frosting topped cinnamon buns (it only takes two to fill a box which normally holds a dozen doughnuts) and cookies larger than scooter pies. The other was the astounding number of roadside sugar shacks around nearly every curve along the way.

The sun was warm and shining bright as I pulled into the Ranger School parking lot – quite a difference from my departure just three hours earlier. Ducks swam on the Oswegatchie River, which fronts the school and flows lazily into Cranberry Lake.

Climbing the stairs to the second floor lecture hall, I was first greeted by the smiling face of Laurel Gailor, Warren County Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) educator. Warren CCE utilized the ice storm funding to finance the workshop keeping the cost very reasonable. Around her were tables brimming with literature on numerous forestry and wildlife related topics. MFO and NYFOA brochures were also plentiful on another table of free information.

The other smiling face greeting us belonged to Cornell University's own Gary Goff. He opened the program with an introduction to the MFO program, directed towards those NYFOA attendees amongst us who have yet to become MFO's.

The program then progressed to a history of the college by Wayne Allen, Wanakena graduate and now college professor. Laurel then presented an extremely informative study of forest health and species response to wounds.

Finishing off the morning program was logger Bill Lindloff, a Game of Logging instructor, whose A-Z program introduced us to forest work which included clothing, equipment, safety, chain saw techniques, wedging and much more.

After a bag lunch, the afternoon found us out in the Wanakena Forest, not only soaking up the sun but also many more tips and techniques of woods work. We participated in forest stand size-up, removal of forest obstacles, safety concerns, hinge cutting, learned how to not let a severely leaning roadside tree keep us from felling it in the completely opposite direction, dropping it on a dime and more.

Finally we had a review of the morning lessons for which door prizes were awarded for top grades. We then returned from our outdoor classroom to receive a tour of the forestry college, but only after feeding apples to the deer which were grazing on the lawn at the school.

So I ended the way I started...

Missed out? You certainly did! It was a quality program by some extremely knowledgeable educators, whose future workshop offerings should not be missed. It left us thirsting for more. You see this workshop took place on a Saturday and a direct result of it, just two days later at 7:00 am Monday, found some of us back in the forested world of a Game of Logging class. But that's another story for another time...

The highlight home you ask? The light snow, which began falling while hand feeding the deer, that accompanied us home — it was frosting on the cake.

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

Woodlot Calendar

March 16, 2002 (Saturday)

40th Annual Spring NYFOA Meeting

The Annual Spring program will be held in Marshall Hall at SUNY ESF on Saturday, March 16 from 8:15 am to 4:00pm. For more information see the January/February issue of the *Forest Owner*.

May 11 -12, 2002 (Saturday, Sunday)

Game of Logging, Level 1

This is the first level of chainsaw safety training in the Game of Logging series. Emphasis will be on safety, proper equipment handling, chainsaw maintenance, and felling procedure. Our instructor will be Bill Lindloff, GOL Instructor and professional logger. This is a hands-on class; you'll be making the chips fly! Bill is an excellent instructor and the GOL techniques are the latest and best for safe, efficient woods work.

We will be filling the class for Saturday, 5/11, then opening Sunday's class if there is enough interest. Both days will be open to men and women. This is an outdoor class running all day, rain or shine. Bring your lunch; beverages supplied by SFL chapter.

Location: Cornell University's Arnot Forest, 611 C.R. 13, Van Etten, NY. Sponsored by the Southern Finger Lakes Chapter of NYFOA and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County. NYFOA members \$125; non-members \$135.

To register for the class please make your check payable to "NYFOA – SFLC" and mail it to: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County, Rural-Urban Center, 208 Broadway, Montour Falls, NY 14865. Include your address, phone number, and indicate whether you are a member of NYFOA.

For more information, contact Joan Scott, Schuyler County CCE at (607) 535-7161, or e-mail Joan at jec23@cornell.edu.

May 18, 2002 (Saturday)

Game of Logging for Women

This is the same GOL Level 1 class, but for women. Emphasis will be on safety, proper equipment handling, chainsaw maintenance, and felling procedure. Our instructor will be Bill Lindloff, GOL Instructor and professional logger. This is a hands-on class.

Same details as above. For more information, contact Joan Scott, Schuyler County CCE at (607) 535-7161, or email Joan at jec23@cornell.edu.

May 19, 2002 (Sunday)

Game of Logging, Level 2

This Level 2 class is open to anyone who has completed the Level 1 Game of Logging course. Emphasis will be on felling bigger trees, special felling techniques, and other advanced topics.

Same details as above. For more information, contact Joan Scott, Schuyler County CCE at (607) 535-7161, or email Joan at jec23@cornell.edu.

May 31-June 2, 2002 (Friday-Sunday)

Forestry Weekend

The NYFOA Capital District Chapter is joining the Catskill Forest Association, Watershed Agricultural Council, Greene County Cornell Cooperative Extension, Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Catskill Center, and the Columbia Land Conservancy in offering a forestry weekend starting Friday evening May 31 and running through to noon on Sunday, June 2. This event will be held at Lange's Groveside on State Route 23 in Acra, Greene County, which is the home of Eric Rasmussen, the 1999 State Outstanding Tree Farmer.

We are hoping to attract new forest owners and seasoned woodland managers with a program that is designed to meet the needs of both audiences. Starting with a talk on the history of New York's forests, the session will cover a variety of topics from help available and concerns for those with no forestry background, to hands on technical topics. There will also be some light entertainment and display booths.

It would be wise to register early because attendance will be limited to 125 people. As details develop, we will keep you apprised. Registration will be \$40 with each additional family member at \$20 and that includes breaks, Saturday lunch and a field guide. For more information contact Joan Kappel at (518) 861-8753.

July 18-20, 2002 (Thursday-Saturday)

The 2002 New York State Maple Tour will be held in Delaware County centered at Delhi on July 18,19 & 20. Delhi is located in the northwestern Catskill Mountains approximately 90 miles southwest of Albany and 70 miles east of Binghamton.

Delaware County is the fifth largest maple producing county in NY with around 70 maple producers. Agriculture and tourism are the leading industries, dairy farming being the main agribusiness. The Beaverkill and the East and West Branches of the Delaware River that flow through the county are world renowned trout streams.

Eight sugaring operations from 400 taps to 8,000 taps will be visited.

For more information contact Margie Aitken at (607) 746 7708 or E Mail tomshane95@msn.com

September 21, 2002 (Saturday)

Catskill Mountain Ginseng Festival

First annual Catskill Mountain Ginseng Festival is being held on Saturday, September 21 from 10 AM until 5 PM. The Festival will take place at the Point in the Village of Catskill, NY, Greene County, a beautiful spot right on the Hudson River. There will be lectures and workshops all day long on cultivation and use of ginseng, good food (even ginseng food!), music, lots of ginseng and other herb products for sale. The festival is being cosponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Greene County and the Catskill Kiwanis Club.

Invasive Plants (continued from page 11)

because it's a great plant for screening, has vigorous growth and acts as an accent plant in the back yard. But I warn you-if you ain't got it, don't get it. If you got it-it's tough to get rid of. This plant is resistant to about every chemical control devised by man. It is also resistant to being dug out, and can't be stopped by blacktop or concrete. To get rid of it you need to be much more stubborn and persistent than the plant. Keep it cut down (every week if you need), dig out all the roots you can and burn them. Don't bury them, because they are very fleshy and won't dry out before you forget about them and they get started somewhere else.

Don't throw them in the hedgerow, or over the bank, or along the road. They will regrow almost anywhere except for swamps. Japanese Knotweed is a very fast growing, aggressive plant which spreads mainly by root. It will create thickets or clumps in which nothing else will grow. It is not hindered by shade or sun. It has thick shoots which are hollow and jointed and will grow through even heavy mulch. Small white flowers appear in late summer or early fall and ripen very quickly. The stems will still be standing all winter long, and into the next spring.

In the next issue we will continue to discuss some more invasive plant

species that are found in New York State.

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

RICHARD CIPPERLY

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Collembolans Spring to Life in March and April

DOUGLAS C. ALLEN

he Order Collembola (coal-embowl-ah) is composed of very small insect-like invertebrates called springtails or "snow fleas." Current thinking suggests these creatures really are not insects but evolved an insect-like form independently. I would be surprised if many forest owners have not seen springtails when wandering through a woodlot as the snow begins to melt each spring. Once temperatures warm and patches of ground are exposed, springtails emerge from beneath the litter and hop around on top of the snow; hence, the common names. They are especially obvious when they accumulate in footprints or other depressions. Their tiny, dark bodies give the appearance of pepper sprinkled on the snow.

Description

Springtail adults are wingless and in New York State range from 0.0001 to 0.25 of an inch long (0.25 - 6.0 mm). The more common species are brownish to dark black (Fig. 1). Throughout the Order, however, adults take on a wide range of colors. Their most distinctive feature is the presence of a forked structure attached to the posterior. When not in use this "spring" is folded forward under the abdomen and held in place by a special cliplike "latch" (Fig. 2). When the "spring" is released, it snaps backwards and propels the animal for a distance of 3 to 4 inches. The odd looking structure behind the third pair of legs in Figures 1 and 2 is called a ventral tube or collophore

(coal-oh-four). This specialized organ is used to obtain moisture and may also function as a sticky appendage that helps collembolans adhere to a substrate.

Habits

The most common habitat for springtails is in humus beneath forest litter or in rotting logs. Many species also reside beneath loose bark on standing or downed trees and in other secluded places such as mushrooms or old pine cones. Wherever they are found, relatively moist, cool conditions are favored by most species. Springtails play a role in nutrient cycling because most consume decaying plant material. Many species also feed on algae, the spores and hyphae (thread- or rootlike structures) of fungi or prey on bacteria. A number of tropical species consume green plant material. Though in general most are vegetarians, some scavenge on dead earthworms and nematodes. Many springtails are very resistant to insecticides, and one species is able to digest DDT! Quite a versatile group!

On a warm early spring day, sugarbush operators are often presented with a bizarre sight as hundreds of "snow fleas" accumulate on the surface of the snow. Occasionally, springtails are so abundant when they swarm they become a nuisance in sap buckets. One species in British Columbia is bright yellow and is known as the "golden snow flea." Occasionally it is so plentiful it creates a condition called "yellow snow"! Indeed, springtails are most commonly

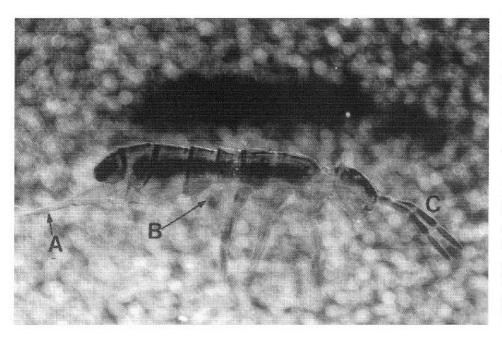


Figure 1 Photomicrograph of a springtail. A = distended "spring", B = collophore. Actual length from end of "spring" to tip of antennae (C) is 0.18 inches.

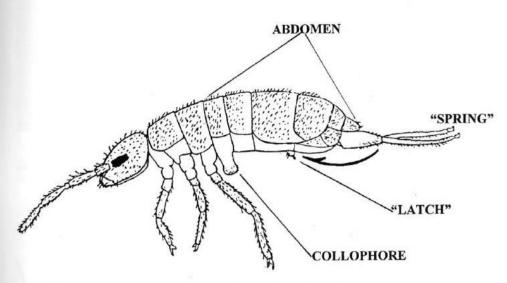


Figure 2 Diagram of a springtail showing a few of its unique features.

noticed when a species swarms for mating purposes or on a concentrated food source. In addition to the examples just mentioned, a scientist in Switzerland reported an instance where these organisms, as small as they are, were so abundant they caused the wheels of a locomotive to spin on its rails!

To the best of my knowledge, springtails are mainly pests in

mushroom houses, forage crops, truck garden crops, and sugar cane. Keep your eyes out for them this spring!

This is the 61st 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.



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Trail Development to Improve Your Property Value

CARL WIEDEMAN & RON NEADLE

rail development provides several important benefits for the woodland owner. For most people, trails make it much easier to enjoy the property by improving access through it - whether on foot, skiis, horseback, mountain bicycle, snowmobile, or ATV. And it's not just the owner who benefits. Friends and family members may feel a little intimidated in a woodlot that is large and unfamiliar. Well marked trails make it much harder for someone to "get lost." In short, a well developed and well designed trail system can enhance the recreational value of the land for yourself, your friends and your family. And if you ever decide to sell the property, a trail system is a feature that will improve its marketability to prospective buyers.

Before you can develop a good trail system on your property, you have to be very familiar with it. Scouting property that you are not familiar with starts with a walk around the perimeter. All boundary lines should be clearly marked wherever they are not obvious. This helps prevent possible trespass, but also gives you some reference points while scouting the trail.

Next, you should locate all of the features that should be considered in trail design. For parcels which are larger than 15 or 20 acres, a map will be a useful reference. Ideally, a USGS topographic map should be used as a reference. However, you can also make vour own rough sketch map. You'll want to locate things such as old roads, streams, poorly drained areas, steep ridges, cellar holes, unusual trees or other features of interest that might be tied together with a trail system. It is important to know your property very well in order to make good decisions about trail design and layout.

Trail Design and Layout

Trail design depends on the type of use or uses you intend it for, the characteristics of the property, and the features or points of interest that you want to incorporate. Well designed trails take advantage of natural drainage features, follow benches on hillsides, pitch around rocks and trees and show very little evidence of the work that went into them. They "fit" into the landscape.

After designing the trail, layout should be done by flagging the general

> double checking the location to make sure it is correct. Plastic surveyors flagging purpose since it is If possible, the location of the trail

should be checked at different times during the year to make sure all environmental factors have been consideredespecially drainage. The best time for trail layout is during spring or fall when leaves are off the trees and the ground surface is visible.

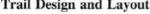


Drainage problems are more apparent during these seasons and terrain features are more visible.

Unless a swampy area is something you want to incorporate as a point of interest, the trail should avoid wet areas. This is to avoid the extra effort needed to build a dry surface out of the mud and future maintenance problems to prevent erosion.

Steep slopes require careful location of trails to avoid erosion. Do not attempt to run trails directly up a slope. Traversing the slope at a diagonal will help avoid erosion and ease the steepness. Trails on extremely steep slopes should make use of switchbacks to avoid long detours.

Trail width and height is an important factor in layout and construction. The width is dependent on the trail's purpose and the terrain on which it is located. Hiking paths generally have a minimum tread width of about 4 feet. Horse trails and recreational vehicle



course and then works well for this inexpensive, highly visable, and easy to put up and remove.



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38 FOREST HILL DR. DRNING, NY 14830 trails are a minimum of 8 feet wide. Additional width must be provided at curves and where erosion control devices are necessary. Keep in mind that vehicles and especially horses need adequate overhead clearance. Cross country ski trails should also have adequate height because branches may be weighed down with snow and ice during the winter and skiiers will be on the snow.

Proper drainage is essential in trail design. A trail can be quickly destroyed by erosion if water is not diverted from the trail surface. Proper grading of the trail surface so water runs off across the trail is the most important design feature. Where additional measures are necessary, drainage structures may be necessary. These structures may be broad based dips, waterbars or various types of culverts.

Trail Maintenance

All trails will tend to "grow in" over time since brush and tree limbs will tend to fill any openings that are available. To minimize the need for future maintenance, avoid creating openings during trail construction. Stay in the shade. Except where you specifically intend to feature openings or brushy areas, try to locate the trail where there already is a well developed forest canopy overhead.

When clearing for the trail, brush and saplings along the edges of the trail should be cut at ground level to avoid hazardous stumps and stubble. Stumps and roots in the trail should be removed. Dead and dangerous trees along the trail corridor should be removed. Overhead limbs should be cut high enough to avoid interference. Allowance should be made for snow depths and snow loaded drooping branches on winter trails.

NYS Cost-sharing for Trails

Recreational trail development is encouraged by providing cost sharing for qualified landowners (see table). Financial assistance is available through the Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP). SIP is a federally funded program designed to encourage private non-industrial forest landowners to practice holistic forest management. You can apply for cost sharing at the rate of 75% of the actual cost of trail planning, layout and construction up to a set limit. Practice specifications call for a minimum hiking trail tread width of four feet (4') with additional width as required for necessary erosion

control structures; on side slopes tread width may be reduced to three feet (3').

Recreational vehicular and horse access trails must have a minimum tread width of eight feet (8') with additional width as required for necessary erosion control structures.

Recreational Trail Development, Layout and Design Cost Share Rate Limits

4 Foot Walking Trails Construction Cost: \$.09/foot

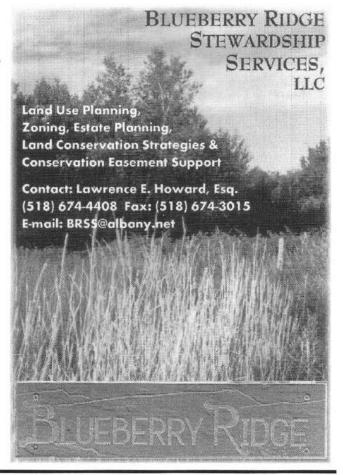
8 Foot Vehicular Trails Construction Cost: \$.20/foot

Design and Layout of Trails: \$.06/

To find out more about the availability of cost sharing for trails and other forest stewardship practices, you should contact the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation service forester in your area.

Carl Weideman is the General Manager of Forest Parks for the New York State -Department of Natural Resources and Ron Neadle is President of the Mohawk Valley Hiking Club. This article originally appeared on the Cornell University, Dept. of Natural Resources, Cornell Cooperative Extension Forestry web site.





Performance of Fall-Lifted Red Pine Seedlings

MICHAEL R. BRIDGEN AND JOHN SOLAN, SR.

ed pine (Pinus resinosa L.) has an important role in the history of New York forests. During the early 1900s, this species was planted extensively in plantations throughout the state to restore tree-cover on abandoned farm land, or burned-over forest lands. Today's mature stands are commonly harvested to provide poles, lumber, or fiber for a variety of uses. The intensity of establishing red pine plantations has decreased significantly since the 1950s. But this species is still a good choice for landowners wishing to produce softwood fiber, especially on dry, gravelly, or well-drained sites.

Nursery Problems

Red pine seedlings are typically sold as two or three year old, grown in their original nursery bed, bare-root seedlings. Seedlings are usually lifted from the nursery beds shortly after the winter snows have melted and the ground has thawed. But spring lifting may present some problems for pine seedlings. One problem may occur when the nursery harvest is delayed by a late spring thaw. Nurseries will harvest seedlings as early as possible to avoid moving actively growing stock, but there is no easily recognizable indication when growth actually begins in a seedling. It is thought that physiological systems in hard pines, such as red pine, react to air temperature and day length rather than soil temperatures. Growth may begin even though root systems remain frozen in nursery beds. When conditions improve to allow harvest, the seedlings are actually in a non-dormant state and are physiologically damaged during harvest. This damage is observed as stunted growth, lack of bud development and mortality.

Another problem is associated with growth after planting. In order to get the full growth potential of the first growing season, bare-root seedlings should be planted as quickly as possible following lifting from the nursery. Late 1997. snow-falls or late frosts, and later lifting dates, may delay seedling deliveries, causing subsequent delays in planting. Deliveries may be expedited if seedlings are lifted in the fall of the previous season, packaged, and stored under refrigerated conditions. However, the field performance of seedlings of falllifted seedlings may also be affected by storage conditions.

This study was conducted to determine whether fall-lifting and overwinter storage of red pine seedlings is a suitable alternative to spring-lifting.

Methods

We tested four different types of red pine seedlings:

- Spring-lifted 3-year old seedlings grown at the Experiment Station of the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (CESF) near Syracuse, NY
- Spring-lifted 2-year old seedlings produced at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) nursery in Saratoga Springs, NY
- Spring-lifted 3-year old seedlings grown at Saratoga Springs
- Fall-lifted 3-year old seedlings grown at Saratoga Springs

A planting site was located on Dubuar Forest in southern St. Lawrence County, near Wanakena, NY. The site had previously been stocked with a sixty-year old red and white pine plantation. In 1995, the stand was destroyed by a windstorm and had been completely salvaged during the winter of 1995-96. Seedlings were received in early May and hand-planted on May 6, 1997.

The weather was hot and dry at planting time. Temperature and rainfall during the 1997 growing season were very similar to the six year average from 1995 to 2000. Rainfall was slightly less than normal during July 1997.

An experimental design was used. Survival and height growth were



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Table 1. One- and four-year survival and height growth of red pine seedlings planted on the Dubuar Forest in St. Lawrence County, May 1997.

Seedling Description	3-Yr Seedlings Syracuse Nursery Lifted Spring '97	2-Yr Seedlings Saratoga Nursery Lifted Spring '97	3-Yr Seedlings Saratoga Nursery Lifted Spring '97	3-Yr Seedlings Saratoga Nursery Lifted Fall '96
Survival (%)				
One Season	77.4	91.1	53.2	86.2
Four Seasons	66.4	76.8	33.6	60.0
Height (feet)				
One Season	0.96	0.66	1.05	0.82
Four Seasons	2.30	2.62	2.49	2.49

measured after the first growing season, in August 1997, and following the fourth growing season, in June, 2001. Stand productivity after the fourth growing season was estimated by adding the heights of all living trees within a treatment unit.

Results

Table 1 shows the survival and

growth of red pine seedlings of the four treatments.

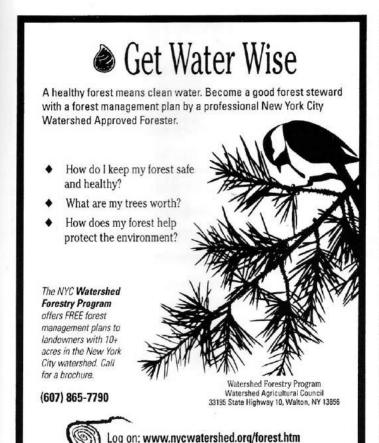
Most of the seedling mortality occurred during the summer of 1997, the first growing season. Springlifted 3 year old seedlings from the Saratoga Nursery had the poorest survival, 53%, following the first season. They also had the greatest additional mortality during the next

three seasons. Each of the other three treatments exhibited higher survival rates. The 2-year old seedlings tended to have the best survival after four seasons (77%), but this value was not statistically different from either the 3 year old seedlings from Syracuse, or the 3 year old fall-lifted seedlings from Saratoga Springs.

Height growth showed a different pattern. The 2 year old seedlings were smaller following the first growing season. Four years after planting, however, all seedling treatments had about the same height. In fact, the 2 year old seedlings tended to be taller than any of the 3 year old treatments.

Productivity of red pine seedlings, estimated as the sum of the heights of all living trees, is illustrated in Figure 2. It was least for the 3 year old spring lifted seedlings from Saratoga, although it was not statistically different from any of the other 3 year old seedlings. Only the spring-lifted

continued on page 22



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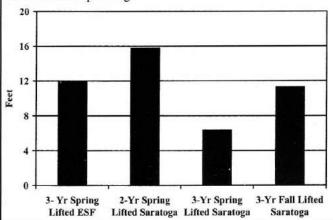
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Performance (continued from page 21)

Figure 2. Stand productivity of red pine seedlings, measured as the sum of all surviving seedlings four growing seasons after planting.



2 year old seedlings exhibited greater productivity, due to their superior survival rate.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Lifting red pine seedlings from a nursery during the fall, and storing them under refrigerated conditions until spring planting, seems to be a safe alternative to spring lifting. In this study, fall-lifted 3 year old seedlings had greater survival than spring-lifted 3 year old seedlings from the same nursery. After four growing seasons, there were no noticeable differences in seedling height between any treatments.

Initial seedling height may indicate expected survival and future stand

productivity. The fall-lifted 3 year old seedlings were smaller than springlifted 3 year old seedlings after the first growing season, and also had greater survival. In fact, their height and survival was not different than 2 year old spring-lifted red pine seedlings. Smaller seedlings have fewer needles, and perhaps a better

shoot-root ratio, allowing them greater tolerance of drought.

Overwinter storage requires temperatures to be maintained just below freezing with abundant moisture, in order to maintain dormancy in fall lifted stock. It is different than cold storage of spring lifted stock

which stays in storage for much shorted periods. Overwinter storage does not affect survivability but can delay bud development and new growth during the first growing season. This first-year growth reduction was observed in the present study (Table 1). The initial height reduction lessens during later seasons.

Seedling customers in the northeast should purchase stock harvested from northern nurseries in the spring or stored overwinter and avoid stock from southern nurseries that has been held in coolers awaiting spring to arrive.

Landowners that experience seedling mortality should always contact the supplier. This is the only way nurseries know how stock performs when outplanted. Reputable nurseries want the best stock available for their customers.

Michael Bridgen is an Associate Professor at SUNY ESF's Ranger School (bridgen@esf.edu). John Solan, Sr. is Supervising Forester at the New York DEC Saratoga Tree Nursery, in Saratoga Springs, NY.

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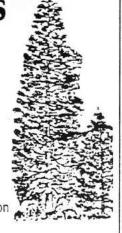
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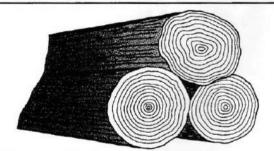


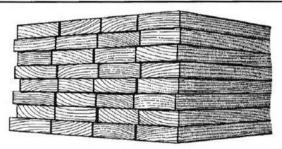
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