

The New York Forest Owner

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**THE NEW YORK
FOREST OWNERS
ASSOCIATION**

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**The New York
Forest Owner**

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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

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COVER: As forest trees grow and develop, their crowns often intertwine resulting in competition for sunlight. Thinning practices that remove undesirable trees can concentrate sunlight and other resources on the trees that best serve the landowner's management goals. For more information on Woodlot Thinning see article on page 6. Photograph courtesy of Peter Smallidge.

From The President

Sometimes I wonder - does it matter if I bother...should I take the time? I'm just one person. Will it make any difference if I write to my legislator, attend a public meeting, or drop off a copy of the *Forest Owner* to a new neighbor? The sad voter participation numbers each election day remind us that many people don't bother, for whatever reason.

But consider this: before Cornell University closed down for the December 2001 holidays, its Kyoto Task Team circulated posters and emails asking that lights, computers and other electrical



devices be shut off before leaving campus. The savings: 360,000 kwh of electricity, and about \$25,000 over the comparable ten-day

period from the previous year. Wow! (The Kyoto Team of students, faculty, and staff takes its name from the 1997 Kyoto Climate Change Conference in Japan).

NYFOA is a strong core of private forest owners who do care and who do bother. It is often difficult to document results, but then, sometimes results shine through in unusual ways. During lunch at NYFOA's annual spring program in March, I asked the young lady next to me whether she had enjoyed the morning program. Her eyes lit up as she said, "It's great. Lots of kids should be here."

I was speaking with Katelynn Stewart, who along with Chris Steves, is a high school student at Granville Central School. They were at the program along with Mr. and Mrs. Steves because Roy Esiason, NYFOA Director and chair of the Southeast Adirondack Chapter, had invited them. "Taking the time" can yield exciting benefits, which in turn is a reminder that we can all learn from the example of others.

Our very able editor, MaryBeth Malmsheimer, reports on the Spring Awards Program in this issue, and a

special word of thanks is also due the others whose extra efforts assured a successful day.

Vice President Jim Minor has been architect and MC for the last three spring program meetings, and as he steps down, I want to thank him once again on behalf of all of us. Arranging for speakers and scheduling requires an enormous amount of calling and juggling. Thanks Jim.

Continuing thanks are also due the College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Hugh Canham is our front man for the many arrangements, including catering and audio and visual equipment. He always "takes the time" to do whatever is asked. We are grateful for the College's strong support for NYFOA, and Hugh's help.

Thanks also to Debbie Gill and Helen Marchant for out front and behind the scenes support, to Charlotte Baxter and Walt Friebe for leadership on the silent auction, to Bob Sand and the awards committee, for the folks who brought and set up the excellent chapter displays, and, well, everyone who attended.

Looking ahead: NYFOA's Board of Directors will hold its June 15th meeting at Arnot Forest - Cornell's teaching and research forest near Ithaca. Board meetings are always open to all, and in recent years we have encouraged Chapter leadership to invite others to attend the June meeting. The combination of NYFOA business and outdoor learning (4000 acres' worth) is an excellent mix. Ask a director from your area for details.

NYFOA's fall meeting this year will be in late September or early October and hosted by the Lower Hudson Chapter. Watch for details.

As this column goes to the editor, it is clock changing time for day light savings. How are you using your "extra" hour of daylight each day?

When it is time to write the column for the July/August edition of the *Forest Owner*, Peggy and I will be away, so I've asked Vice President John Druke to fill in for me.

I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable summer.

-Ron Pedersen
President

Join!

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.

Join NYFOA today and begin to receive its many benefits including: six issues of *The New York Forest Owner*, woodswalks, chapter meetings, and two statewide meetings. Complete and mail this form:

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

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County of Woodlot: _____

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For regular memberships, make check payable to **New York Forest Owners Association**. For sustaining NYFOA memberships, indicate if for individual or family and make check payable to **NYWS (New York Woodland Stewards, Inc.)** Contributions to NYWS in excess of NYFOA dues are normally tax deductible. Send the completed form to:

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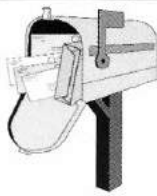
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In The MAIL



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We're not just being nose-y!

Many of you have received the new renewal form, which is requesting information about the number of acres owned and what county they are located in. This information has been collected from our new members for several years and we would like to catch up with our long time members. You can be assured that this personal data is not shared in any form, with names or addresses connected with it. It can be a valuable, concrete piece of information to have to advocate the vast number of acres owned by private woodland owners in New York when promoting NYFOA and its mission.

Offering NYFOA this information is purely voluntary, as well as your telephone and e-mail address. Whether you choose to share this information or not, NYFOA is proud to have you as a member.

—Debbie Gill
NYFOA Administrative Secretary

Chapter Input

One of my first and most important efforts as Executive Director is to complete a visit with each chapter. The objectives of these visits are to get to know the dedicated volunteers that make NYFOA programs possible, obtain feedback on the draft mission and vision statements, and to solicit input from the chapter representatives about how the NYFOA Board can support their efforts in the delivery of programs.

Through mid-April I have visited with six chapters. The commitment and dedication exhibited, combined with the friendliness of those I have met, make it clear that NYFOA is a viable and effective organization. This effectiveness is reflected through the high quality and informative

woodswalks, conferences and other educational activities sponsored by those chapters.

Some of the ideas voiced by members as to how the NYFOA Board might help their chapter continue to provide effective programs include providing assistance by developing model chapter meeting guidelines, writing position descriptions for such positions as publicity and activities coordinator to assist in recruiting volunteers, distributing short articles describing reasons for program/event success or failure, helping create a board/steering committee leadership program, and distributing reference/resource materials to chapters.

Many other valuable ideas were suggested and more will result from additional chapter meetings as they are held. All these ideas will be summarized and then evaluated by the NYFOA Board. From this will evolve a list of priority items the board will then follow through on in their effort to be responsive to chapter needs. Since I am still gathering input, please contact me with any of your thoughts. ▲

—Dan Palm
NYFOA Executive Director

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The Future of Timber Supply in the US

A look at wood-glut and its effects on certification.

DAVID LABAND AND LARRY TEETER

Recent Forest Inventory Analysis data and the newly-released Southern Forest Resource Assessment (SFRA) bring more clearly into focus the long-term timber supply picture for the U.S. that many consulting foresters were starting to voice concern about. We all know that softwood prices have been significantly depressed recently – a result of too much supply chasing too little demand. The critical question for private timberland owners and consulting foresters is what the future holds in this regard. We say ‘critical’ because current decisions about land-use and a multitude of timber management decisions (*e.g.*, natural versus artificial regeneration, spacing, herbicide application, thinning, etc.) depend not on current prices, but rather on expected *future* prices.

Even in advance of the SFRA, we were starting to hear consulting foresters voice concern about long-run timber supply, based on their perception that in recent years a lot of marginal farmland in the U.S., especially in the southeastern states, had been converted to intensively managed timberland. We now know that this is correct. Moreover, the yields from these newly planted stands will exceed the yields from previous plantations, because of improvements in silvicultural practices. Because so much of this new inventory is intensively managed, it will need to be thinned (for growth, if not for revenue). In short, just in terms of developments in the U.S., the pulpwood glut likely will be with us for at least the next decade, if not longer.

Further, there appears to be major tree planting activity underway overseas, especially in South America where growth rates can be as much as 50 percent greater than in the fast-

growing southeastern U.S. region. Whether this foreign-produced pulpwood eventually makes its way directly into the U.S. is almost immaterial, because it will decrease foreign demand for U.S.-produced pulpwood and pulpwood products. Indirectly, then, the increasing foreign inventory will dampen demand by U.S. companies for U.S.-produced pulpwood.

Barring a significant, unlooked-for increase in demand for pulpwood in the future, this expanding U.S. and international timber inventory has straightforward implications for private landowners all across America: (1) There is unlikely to be a significant or sustained rebound in pulpwood prices (to pre-slump levels) any time in the foreseeable future. Don't plan on realizing significant revenues from thinning 10 years from now. (2) In reaction to this long-term price structure, timberland owners seeking to protect their return on investment should, and likely will, reconsider their management decisions. The obvious general strategy to combat a reduction in expected future stumpage prices is to reduce your up-front costs. A list of possibilities in this regard includes: lengthen the rotation period and emphasize sawtimber production rather than pulpwood production; opt for natural regeneration; if you plant, space the trees further apart and reconsider how much money you plow into soil preparation. (3) To the extent that there indeed is some substitution by landowners from pulpwood production into sawtimber production, this will increase the future supply of sawtimber, which, in turn, will tend to depress prices in that market, although the size of this effect is difficult to predict.

We strongly urge private landowners to sit down with your consulting forester

and re-assess your management strategies in consideration of what we see as long-term downward pressure on pulpwood prices that may also adversely affect sawtimber prices. Depending on landowners' objectives, location, and current forest conditions, a long-term downturn in stumpage prices will not affect everyone equally. But it will affect everyone to some extent. Under the circumstances, updated plans will contribute to prudent management and results.

In closing, we note that one consequence of a long-term depressed outlook for softwood prices is that third party forest certification becomes increasingly problematic, for two reasons. On the cost side, it becomes more difficult to convince private timberland landowners to absorb a new cost when market conditions do not support doing so. On the benefit side, lower softwood prices are likely to increase the voluntary adoption by private timberland owners of management strategies (natural regeneration, reduced use of herbicides, etc.) that are consistent with the general objectives of certification. Under the circumstances, the net marginal private and social benefits derived from a formal certification mechanism must be dropping. ▲

This article originally appeared in "The Acf Advisor," First Quarter 2002, Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc. David Laband and Larry Teeter focus their respective efforts upon economics and timber supply at the Auburn University Forest Policy Center. The FPC is a research and outreach center whose purpose is to explore the fundamental forest policy issues affecting the United States in an increasingly globalized economy. Located in the US South where private forestland ownership dominates, the Center envisions expanding the scope of forest policy debate from one emphasizing public lands issues, to one in which private land ownership issues are also thoroughly examined.

Woodlot Thinning to Achieve Landowner's Goals

PETER J. SMALLIDGE

Private forest landowners love their forests and woodlands and often have a long-term vision for their property. Sometimes the love for the forest seems incompatible with cutting trees or logging, a much-maligned activity. However, in many circumstances, a landowner's vision is best achieved through the judicious and well-guided cutting of trees. Thinning trees from your woodland is a process of cutting low vigor or undesired trees. Thinning may well serve the landowner's interests because it can enhance the growth of the desired species and trees and generally improve the health, vigor, and quality of the residual forest. Thinning differs from the non-sustainable practice of selective cutting where the big trees are cut "to let the little ones grow." Thinning also differs from regeneration cutting that establishes the next forest through natural reproduction of seedlings from desired species.

Call (and Think) Before You Cut

Landowners should heed the adage "haste makes waste" when they consider cutting trees. All trees are not created equal, and the selection of the winners and the losers during a cutting operation depends on the vision you have for your woodlot. A stewardship management plan for your property will guide you and the foresters and loggers you hire when it's time to start cutting trees. The stewardship plan, prepared for free by your local DEC forester, describes your vision for your property, the types of forests you have, the quality of the soils, the wildlife that might exist, a schedule of activities, and outlines these features on a variety of useful maps. In anticipation of working with a forester to prepare a stewardship plan,

you and anyone else who has a vested interest in the property should think about your vision(s), your motivation for obtaining and retaining the property, what you like and dislike, and those areas you would like to see changed. Ask yourself if there are barriers to fully enjoying your property. If you would like some guided assistance in thinking about these questions, or tips on landowner educational materials, contact a Master Forest Owner volunteer through your county's CCE office for a free visit or see who's in your county from the MFO web site www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/mfo. So, before you begin cutting, think about your vision and call for assistance.

Improvement Cutting

Improvement cuts, which include thinning, are done for several possible reasons: (1) to change the mixture of species in the woods by removing undesirable species; (2) to change how your forest looks, for example you might wish to remove saplings in an area to improve visibility; (3) to improve forest health by removing diseased, insect-infested or dying trees; or (4) to improve growth and reduce competition by freeing the crowns of desired trees.

Think of your forest like your garden. Your garden produces crops such as flowers for butterflies or tomatoes or carrots. Your garden is most productive and healthy when you ensure that each plant has plenty of sunlight and that heavily diseased plants are removed. You tend or culture your garden by weeding and thinning long before you expect to produce a crop. If you pick your crop early, for example when your beefsteak tomatoes are the size of golf balls, you miss out on the

quality and quantity you would receive if you waited until the tomatoes matured. Forests are similar to gardens because they are groups of plants that grow in soil, require sunlight and nutrients, and produce things (like beauty, wildlife habitat, and timber) that we want.

Improvement cuts fall into a category of forest management known as intermediate cutting, or cutting that occurs during the middle stages of a forest's development with the purpose of improving and shaping the current forest. In contrast, regeneration cutting practices are designed to produce the next forest and are applied when the forest or groups of trees are mature. Because many NY forests developed on abandoned agricultural land or as the result of previous heavy cutting, trees in our forests are often all about the same age even though they may be of different sizes. The variation you see in tree diameters results from differences in the growth potential of one species versus another and the competitive struggle for sunlight and soil resources among trees. For example, black cherry and eastern white pine can grow very fast and need full sunlight while American beech, sugar maple, and eastern hemlock can survive in shade and grow more slowly. You can shape the future of the forest if you allow full sunlight to the crowns of certain species and trees by cutting adjacent trees that create shade. The destiny of your woodlot, and thus the trees you cut or save, should depend on whether you want to someday produce wildlife food crops (like acorns or cherries), timber, aesthetic vistas, or some combination. What you want to produce determines the species you should favor versus the species to cut.

Selecting the specific trees to cut can be difficult. The specific trees to remove depend on your objectives, but might include diseased trees, trees of poor form, trees with weak wood, or trees that block a view. It's always a good idea to speak with a DEC forester or a forester from the DEC list of *Cooperating Foresters* for assistance. Explain your objectives, review your stewardship plan and have them help you select some trees for removal. If you have a large woodlot and the trees are of moderate size (maybe 8 to 12 inches in diameter) then you might be able to sell some for firewood. Otherwise, you'll need to either hire a logger to complete the work or complete the work yourself with a chainsaw or by girdling the trees. If you sell firewood (or trade trees in your woodlot in return for firewood) make certain you contact a forester, as there are potential and serious legal and financial pitfalls to be aware of and to avoid.

The cutting part of the improvement might be with a chain saw, or it might be by girdling the tree. Using a chain saw requires special skills and training, but can provide the benefit of firewood. Girdling doesn't require as much equipment and simply means that you take a hatchet or axe and frill around a tree enough to shave the bark and inner wood in a complete circle. You can also girdle a tree with a chain saw. Girdling breaks the connection the tree crown has with the roots, and eventually kills the tree. Effective girdles don't need to be very deep. Girdling also leaves behind a standing dead tree; so don't use this practice in areas you or other people frequent because of the potential hazards. You can hasten the process by applying an appropriate herbicide into the frill. Whether chain saw, axe, or herbicide you are using a tool that deserves respect so be careful.

Crop Tree Management

Crop tree management is a type of improvement cutting that focuses on "crop" trees, or trees to leave until you



Plastic flagging tape used to mark trees for removal.

are ready to regenerate the next forest. Anyone who has thinned a carrot patch to encourage growth can understand crop tree management. The concept is actually fairly simple whether applied in a garden or woodlot, but the process requires some time and effort to achieve the optimal result. This is a good strategy for landowners interested in playing an active role in the management of their property.

Crop tree management (CTM) is a useful management strategy especially for the private forest landowner who

has: more than a passing interest in their woodlands; the ability to identify trees by species; clearly stated objectives; spent some time talking with a forester; and a desire to become more integral to managing his or her land. CTM is nice because you can try it in a small area and see if you like it before you start working on more acreage. CTM differs from improvement cutting by focusing more on the trees you leave than on the trees to remove. Both are suitable in certain situations.

continued on page 8

Susan J. Keister, L.L.C.
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Woodlot Thinning (continued from page 7)

The exciting part of crop tree management is that you, the landowner, can define the criteria for your crop trees. In one part of your woodlot, perhaps where you like to watch squirrels and turkeys, you might select crop tree criteria to favor tree species that produce fruits these wildlife eat (called mast). So, you might favor species such as black cherry, oak, walnut, and hickory. In another part of your woodlot where the ground is more fertile you might set criteria for timber production and favor black cherry, oak, sugar maple, and white ash. In addition to wildlife and timber, other criteria might include aesthetics (fall color, unique shape, unusual species, etc.) or water quality.


Carrying out crop tree management is straightforward, but again requires some time and effort to learn new skills. First, you should walk through a small section of your woodlot several times getting a feel for the trees you have to work with. Then, select trees that meet your criteria. Try to select the trees with healthy crowns with full or nearly full exposure to sunlight. You might use plastic flagging tape to mark the trees whose crowns touch or come close to your crop tree. Your goal is to free the crop tree crown on all four sides so it is free to grow. Use a different color flagging for the trees to be removed. Do this over an acre (one acre is a square with sides that are 209 feet long) with a goal to select between 50 to 75

crop trees in woodlots with semi-mature trees (10 to 14 inches), and more trees in forests having smaller trees. If the amount of flagging looks like more cutting or girdling than you are comfortable with, reduce the number of crop trees rather than freeing some crowns on less than all four sides. If two or three crop trees are growing together you can think of them as a group and thin around the group.

The end result of crop tree management will be crop trees that have the best chance to grow because of reduced competition from neighbors. Your crop trees will have the best chance for good health, seed production, and foliage development. Also, if you cut the neighboring trees rather than girdle them you will have some firewood in the process as well.

Want more information?

Improvement cutting and crop tree management are tried and true strategies that can benefit some forest owners. However, as previously mentioned, don't confuse this with the undesirable practice of selective cutting where the biggest trees are cut to "let the little ones grow." For assistance with improvement cutting or information on woodlot management, you should call your county office of Cornell Cooperative Extension or call the local NYS-DEC Forestry office. Ask about the CCE publications on woodlot management. The US Forest

Service crop tree management guide is available at www.fs.fed.us/na/morgantown/frm/perkey/ctm/ctm_index.html. To view different ways to thin your woodlot, and especially what the forest looks like you can tour virtual woodlots at Cornell University's Arnot Forest www.dnr.cornell.edu/arnot or Penn State University at www.virtualforest.psu.edu. 

Peter J. Smallidge is the NY State Extension Forester, Cornell University - Department of Natural Resources, Ithaca, NY 14853 www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/forestry. He is also a member of NYFOA. This article is from the Series: "Looking Into Your Woodlot."

PONDS UNLIMITED INVITES YOU....

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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Woodlot Calendar

May 18, 2002 (Saturday)

Game of Logging for Women

This is the first level of chainsaw safety training in the Game of Logging series, 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.

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 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. 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.

May 31-June 1, 2002 (Friday-Saturday)

Land Trust Alliance Tenth Anniversary New York Land Trust Conference

Hosted by the Land Trust Alliance Northeast Program at the Gideon Putnam Hotel and Conference Center in Saratoga Springs, New York. The

conference brings together land trust practitioners, public agency professionals and allied conservationists for two days of inspiring and educational workshops, speakers and field trips. It is an unmatched opportunity in New York State to hear expert presenters, network with colleagues, share lessons learned and re-energize for the work ahead.

The theme of this year's conference is "Public-Private Partnerships" and we are pleased to present New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Erin M. Crotty and New York State Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee Chair Thomas P. DiNapoli (invited) as our featured speakers.

You can see the detailed agenda at www.lta.org/training. The registration fee for the whole event is \$175 but reduced to \$105 for just the Saturday workshops.

For a brochure or to register for the conference please visit our website at <http://www.lta.org/training> or contact Geri Angeles at (518) 587-0774 or gangeles@lta.org.

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 co-sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Greene County and the Catskill Kiwanis Club.

October 12, 2002 (Saturday)

Silvicultural Demo Day

This morning in the woods will be dedicated to seeing the results of different forest cutting techniques. Discussion will cover the stand conditions before cutting, objectives of cutting, and the results. We'll tour several areas and learn how to properly approach various stand management issues.

Location: Cornell University's Arnot Forest, 611 C.R. 13, Van Etten, NY. Watch for more details in the Forest Owner. Mark your calendar! Sponsored by the Southern Finger Lakes Chapter.

INVASIVE PLANTS - PART III

BOB BERKEMEIR

In the last issue of the Forest Owner we discussed in greater detail some of the specific plants that are included on the Invasive Plant List created by the Invasive Plant Council of New York State. This issue will continue that discussion and conclude the series on Invasive Plants.

We will begin with *Curly pondweed* (potamogeton crispus) sometimes referred to as curly-leaf pondweed. For pond owners who have been confronted with this pest, congratulations if you have won. Sometimes the easiest way to remove this plant is to drain and dredge out the entire bottom of the pond. Some chemicals may control it, but not eliminate the pest. Curly pondweed is an early spring water plant which will not be a problem later in the summer. It's a rooted submerged pondweed that sets its seed in late spring by sending up a spike which rises above the water, and it will look like the entire pond is covered with the plant. Actually the pond is! The stem is semisolid and the leaves are thin and almost clear. The leaves are alternate, finely toothed and twisted or puckered. This plant has the ability to shade out

many other water plants while it is growing. Curly pondweed is known world wide and may be found throughout the United States. It is originally a native of Europe.

Eurasian water-milfoil (Myriophyllum spicatum). This plant is another water plant with the ability to crowd out all other native plants. This plant is not native, although it has lots of cousins which are. Again, it is an early spring starter, but unlike the curly-leaf pondweed this plant will continue to persist all season long. For fishermen, boaters and swimmers, Eurasian water-milfoil is a real nuisance. The plant is a submerged rooted perennial, has a hollow stem and fine (feather like) whorled leaves along the entire stem. Its seeds are produced on tiny flowers which may extend above the water while blossoming. What makes it so difficult is that it can reproduce both by seed and broken off vegetative parts. It becomes so dense in growth that even the fish and their food supplies can become choked out.

Porcelain-berry (Ampelopsis brevipedunculata). Also called Asian Ampelopsis, this plant is an original import from Asia. It's a vine which, like wild grape and wood-vine, can climb trees and create a canopy heavy enough to not only kill the tree, but also to break off the top when loaded with ice or snow. Porcelain-berry is most similar to wild grape,

with the difference being that wild grape has a dark center pith within the vine and this center pith is white. Also this plant has a 3 lobed leaf which is hairy, while the grape has even heart shaped leaves with small serrations. Originally planted for the colorful fruits, which are relished by birds, the berries tend to be purplish blue and dry. It has some native cousins like Heartleaf Ampelopsis and Peppervine or Thunderberry.

Oriental bittersweet (Celastrus orbiculatus). Also known as Asiatic bittersweet, this vine has a native cousin called climbing bittersweet (c. scandens) or American bittersweet. Both are high climbing vines although the Oriental is much more competitive and will even choke out the American. They have woody stems and no tendrils, and when no trees are available, will grow on fences or bushes. The concern with the Oriental is both its aggressive nature and not being native. The Oriental can be distinguished from the American by the leaf shape and the fruit color. The American leaf is pointed and the Oriental will be rounded. The American fruit color is an orange case which splits open to reveal red berries and is only on the tip of the vines. The Oriental fruit is a yellow case which opens to a red berry and can be along the stem in many places. The seeds from either are eagerly eaten by a multitude of birds.

The Honeysuckles: Tartarian (Lonicera tatarica), Japanese (L. japonica) and Fly honeysuckle (L. morrowii). All three are aliens and very aggressive once established. As with many of the plants listed these have many native cousins. Most are either not as aggressive or have enough pests to hold them in control. The Japanese honeysuckle is a vine. It's considered to be a high climber and



Russian Olive

very aggressive. The Japanese will sprawl and climb over everything creating dense tangles of vines and bushes much like wild grapevine does. Its leaves are densely hairy as are its white or yellow blossoms. The fruit is black and a delight for birds. The other two honeysuckles – Tartarian and “Fly” or Morrow – are bush or shrub type plants. Both have similar growth habits and similar leaves. They flower in early spring and the blossoms are either pink, yellow or white. Fruit is red or orange, and ripens in mid-summer. Again, birds love the fruit. All honeysuckles have the ability to grow and exist in fairly dense shade and wait for the opportunity to reach into the sunlight. When they can, they will dominate any area creating a tangled mess.

The Olives: Autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) and Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*). Both plants are considered invasive, are tall shrubs with the Russian olive able to become a small tree in the 20-25 foot range. These two have one native cousin which is called silverberry. Its natural range is the upper Midwest from Canada to Utah and Colorado. Autumn Olive, a native of Eastern Asia, is also called Asiatic silverberry. It has been widely promoted as a conservation plant for the northeast and has the ability to be fairly adaptable to soils. Considered a good soil builder because it fixes nitrogen Autumn olive is also hardy for poorly eroded areas and a great wildlife food. As always, with the better comes the bitter. In this case, it's the ability to invade areas where it's not wanted or to so successfully take over an area that it creates an impenetrable thicket of thorns. The plant grows to approximately 12 feet with leaves that are green on top and silvery underneath. It has yellowish flowers and a reddish seed which can have silver dots in the skin. Russian olive, a native of Europe and western Asia, is also known as oleaster. Russian olive will grow as high as 25 feet, is thorny, and has the same

properties as Autumn olive. This plant has silvery leaves, yellow blossoms which are fragrant and silvery seeds.

Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*). This plant has a native cousin American barberry (*B. canadensis*), also an European cousin called common barberry (*B. vulgaris*). Presently neither of them appears to be as invasive as the Japanese. Though it is not uncommon in our area, nearer the Eastern coast it has become a very real threat. It has the ability to take over especially rare plant areas and create its own thorny thickets. Although it only grows to approximately five feet, it can dominate an area. All three barberrys are thorny with usually a three-pronged thorn. They have yellow inner bark and wood, yellow blossoms and red fruit. The Japanese fruit hangs individually and may stay on most of the fall and winter. Birds love the fruit which aids in spreading the plant. Japanese is not susceptible to wheat black stem rust although the other two are. Japanese leaves are small, roundish and smooth while both the others have longer and toothed leaves. While deer and rabbits will browse on most any shrubs, this plant is one they dislike because it's so thorny.

Japanese Stilt Grass (*Microstegium vimineum*). Other aliases for the plant include Asian stilt grass, Vietnamese stilt grass, Nepal stilt grass or Nepal microstegium and Chinese packing grass. It is an annual with a sprawling growth which may reach three feet high. The leaf is thin, pale green and about three inches long. The distinctive feature is the silvery reflective hairs down the middle of the upper leaf surface. Stilt grass grows anywhere there is a soil disturbance and prefers wet shady areas. The ability to grow quickly and crowd out native flowers and plants under these circumstances is a real concern. It has caused problems all along the east coast from New York west to Illinois and south to Florida. It can occur on stream banks, bluffs, floodplains and forested or moist

woodlands and can also found in upland fields and thickets, road ditches and power line rights of way. It may even be found in some lawns and gardens. It prefers moist acidic soil as opposed to neutral soils high in nitrogen and spreads by rooting at its nodes and by seed. Each plant can produce 100 to 1,000 seeds. Control may be accomplished by pulling the plants, or if mowed off in the late summer before the plant is beginning to blossom, the seed crop for that year is destroyed. However, persistence is the key because the seeds can remain in the soil for several years waiting for the right conditions to germinate.

This concludes our series on Invasive Plants. Sources of information for the plant descriptions include:

- *A Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs* by George A. Petrides
- *Trees of North America and Europe* by Roger Phillips
- *A Field Guide to Wildflowers of Northeast and North Central North America* by Peterson/Mckenny
- *Weeds of the North East* by Uva, Neal, and DiTomaso
- *Invasive Plants Fact Book* by Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds
- *The Shrub Identification Book* by George W. D. Symonds
- *Newcomb's Wildflower Guide* by Lawrence Newcomb

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



NYFOA AWARDS

During the annual Spring Meeting Albert Brown, Don Brown and Debbie Gill were presented with awards from NYFOA. The articles here contain a portion of the award speech to the individuals. The 2002 NYFOA Awards Committee was chaired by Robert M. Sand and consisted of Peter Gregory, Charlie Mowatt, Anne Osborn and Jack Ward.

HEIBERG MEMORIAL AWARD PRESENTED TO ALBERT W. BROWN



Bob Sand presents the 2002 Heiberg Memorial Award to Albert Brown(l).

Each year the New York Forest Owners Association presents the Heiberg Memorial Award to recognize outstanding contributions to forestry and conservation in New York State. The award memorializes Svend O. Heiberg, a renowned Professor of Silviculture at the NYS College of Forestry (now the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry), who was responsible for proposing the establishment of a forest landowner association in New York State 40 years ago. With Hardy Shirley, Dean of Forestry, Professor Heiberg began the meetings that eventually organized NYFOA.

This year at the Annual Spring Meeting, NYFOA honored an exceptional recipient, Albert W. Brown, with the 36th Heiberg Memorial Award. Brown is a forest owner, communicator and teacher who exemplifies the opportunities of the NYFOA mission in New York.

Al Brown's roots are on a Jefferson County family farm. His first connection with the forest was a bucksaw and his assigned chore of keeping the kitchen's

wood box filled. Completing high school, Al joined the United States Marine Corps. In his unit in the South Pacific only two individuals, when questioned, admitted to having ever used a cross cut saw. As Sergeants, however, both agreed that training others in its use was far more important than doing it themselves.

After the war, in January 1946, Al entered Syracuse University under the GI Bill. He had seriously considered a Forestry career, but instead opted for a doctorate in 1952 from the Maxwell School of Citizenship. Al's first college job was teaching conservation courses, working with grant programs and field studies trips at Eastern Illinois University. Early on, he was involved with TSI projects, hand planting hardwoods and demonstrating use of a mechanical planter for pines in the area. For four summers Al organized the "Prairie State Field Studies" which took elementary and secondary teachers for several weeks each summer into the western mountains.

Al's next position was Head and then Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at Eastern Michigan University. With a close relationship with the Michigan Department of Forestry, the College conducted summer workshops and field trips for the National Science Foundation-sponsored Institutes that took place at the Higgins Lake Conservation School. Upon leaving Michigan, Al was given a double bitted axe and sheathe that still does work today in New York State.

In 1974, while President of the State University College at Brockport, nostalgia

or a felt need for solitude and hard physical activity resulted in the purchase of 200 acres of land in Chautauqua County with another couple. Thus began a long series of both weekends and vacations filled with planning and working with soil, water and forestry in creating and implementing plans for the land and forests. The results include the planting of 28,000 coniferous seedlings and 10,000+ hardwood and wildlife shrubs. Under their forest plan, they have carried out TSI practices, harvested timber, built four ponds and dedicated 28 acres to wildlife. His partner continues to monitor the growth on 60 marked trees.

Al has had membership in NYFOA for nearly 30 years. He has assisted in the Soil & Water Seedling Program and served on the Envirothon Board. He has participated in many capacities with the Allegheny Foothills Chapter (AFC) including both the AFC Board and Steering Committee, many woodwalks, informational programs, County Fair exhibits and the 1991 Fall NYFOA Meeting sponsored by the AFC. He was an elected Director on the NYFOA Board and served for several years on the Editorial Committee.

Al was in the first MFO class at Cornell's Arnot Forest. For five years he chaired the AFC committee which produced a supplement in the Jamestown Post Journal devoted to introducing forestry issues and concerns to the increasing number of forest owners without much knowledge or experience in forestry matters.

Presently, Al and his wife of 55½ years, Marjorie, make their home at Stow, NY on Chautauqua Lake. They have five children and enjoy eight grandchildren.

NYFOA applauds the accomplishments of Al Brown, a dedicated individual whose great character and teaching skills have been a gift shared throughout his life with many individuals and communities. This award is a symbol of NYFOA's appreciation to Al Brown for the many years of contributions and service to forestry and conservation in New York State. 🌲

Heiberg Award Recipients

1967	David B. Cook
1968	Floyd Carlson
1969	Mike Demerece
1970	No Award
1971	Fred Winch, Jr.
1972	John Stock
1973	Robert M. Ford
1974	C. Eugene Farnsworth
1975	Alex Dickson
1976	Edward W. Littlefield
1977	Maurine Postley
1978	Ralph Nyland
1979	Fred C. Simmons
1980	Dr. William Harlow
1981	Curtis H. Bauer
1982	Neil B. Gutches
1983	David W. Taber
1984	John W. Kelley
1985	Robert G. Potter
1986	Karen B. Richards
1987	Henry G. Williams
1988	Robert M. Sand
1989	Willard G. Ives
1990	Ross S. Whaley
1991	Robert S. Stegemann
1992	Bonnie & Don Colton
1993	Michael C. Greason
1994	Douglas C. Allen
1995	John C. Marchant
1996	Harriet & John Hamilton
1997	Vernon C. Hudson
1998	Peter S. Levatic
1999	James E. Coufal
2000	James P. Lassoie
2001	John T. Hastings
2002	Albert W. Brown

Outstanding Service Award Recipients

1978	Emiel Palmer
1979	Ken Eberly
1980	Helen Varian
1981	J. Lewis Dumond
1982	Lloyd Strombeck
1983	Evelyn Stock
1984	Dorothy Wertheimer
1985	David H. Hanaburgh
1986	A. W. Roberts, Jr.
1987	Howard O. Ward
1988	Mary & Stuart McCarty
1989	Alan R. Knight
1990	Earl Pfarnar
1991	Helen & John Marchant
1992	Richard J. Fox
1993	Wesley E. Suhr
1994	Alfred B. Signor
1995	Betty & Don Wagner
1996	Betty Densmore
1997	Norman Richards
1998	Charles P. Mowatt
1999	Eileen and Dale Schaefer
2000	Erwin and Polly Fullerton
2001	Billy Morris
2002	Donald G. Brown

DON BROWN RECEIVES NYFOA SERVICE AWARD

The twenty-sixth New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) Outstanding Service Award was presented to Donald G. Brown at the 2002 Annual Spring Meeting. The award, which recognizes outstanding service to the NYFOA membership, acknowledges Brown's many contributions of time, energy and talent over the years to NYFOA.

Don Brown, a Senior Forester with the NYS DEC, grew up in North Tonawanda, NY and graduated from the New York State College of Forestry in 1968. He and his wife Jancie have been married for 25 years and make their home in Potsdam. They have two daughters who both attend college. They own 120 acres of forest in St. Lawrence County which they purchased 15 years ago.

In the formative and early years of the Northern Adirondack Chapter (NAC) of NYFOA, Don attended all the early meetings, offering valuable advice to establish and organize the NAC. He helped secure a strong membership base for NAC by working like a partner with private forest landowners throughout the northern Adirondacks and has served as the Treasurer of NAC since the chapter was formed in 1991. Don is well respected among both forest owners and foresters for his sound management counseling.

Don has served as an outstanding Forester and Educator in many ways. As a volunteer with Project Learning Tree (PLT), a national educational effort to teach conservation and forestry concepts to teachers, scout leaders, etc., Don made a major contribution to the activities involved. For many years Don has also served as secretary of the St. Lawrence County Forest Practices Board.

As a forester Don has assisted many North Country forest owners by preparing type maps and diligently recommending best management practices. He has signed up woodlands into the S.I.P. program and the 480-a tax law.



Don Brown receives the NYFOA Service Award from NYFOA member Jack Ward.

In January 1998, a devastating ice storm caused significant damage to both urban and rural trees in the North Country. In Potsdam, Don reinspected nearly 300 trees recommended by a consultant for removal about which many residents were deeply concerned. Don's support of the need for removal did much to convince the public that removal was necessary. In 1999 when the Village began efforts to replant its street trees Don served on the committee that planned and organized a community replanting day. When 240 Potsdam citizens volunteered one Saturday morning to plant trees, he provided both technical assistance and conducted a "how to plant a tree" demonstration for volunteers. His involvement and expertise greatly aided the street tree replanting of Potsdam.

The NYFOA membership acknowledges a sincere appreciation of the many contributions of energy, time and professional expertise by Donald Brown. Congratulations and thank you for your years of service to NYFOA. ▲

NYFOA Scholarship Fund

As of April 1, 2002, the NYFOA Endowed Scholarship Fund that is administered by the SUNY ESF College Foundation, Inc. has a fund balance of \$21,623.73.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD TO DEBBIE GILL

Periodically NYFOA will present a Special Recognition Award to an individual who has contributed their time and efforts for the good of the organization. During this year's annual Spring Meeting, NYFOA presented the award for the year 2002 to Debbie Gill.

Debbie has served as the Administrative Secretary of NYFOA's office since July 1991. She has staffed NYFOA's annual meetings' registration desk with her mother, Helen Marchant, for many years. How fortunate we are to have the services of this knowledgeable pair welcoming members to our meetings year after year.

One of Debbie's most important responsibilities is servicing NYFOA's Chapters. In 1991 there were eight, plus both affiliates, THRIFT and the Catskill Forest Association. Today there are eleven chapters across New York and membership has grown more than 50% during Debbie's term.

Debbie also handles all of the duties involved with our members. She keeps the data base records current, mails all invoices and collects all dues money. She picks up the mail, answers the phone and keeps the New York Tree Farm records.

She further handles a number of other duties, all correspondence as well, and acts as the recording Secretary for all Board of Directors meetings. This is no small job, as it requires sometimes listening to three people all talking at once. She follows up each meeting by mailing copies of the minutes to all officers, elected directors and chapter designates on the Board.

Debbie and her husband have three children and reside in Fairport, NY.

NYFOA appreciates all that Debbie does as an independent NYFOA contractor. Her commitment and dedication during the terms of five NYFOA presidents has contributed much to the success of the association. NYFOA is doubly indebted to Debbie's parents, John and Helen Marchant, who likewise have contributed so much and been a most important part of NYFOA's success over the years.


NYFOA wishes to recognize Debbie's many contributions with a token of appreciation by presenting the 2002 NYFOA Special Recognition Award. Thank you Debbie!




Debbie Gill poses with her mother, Helen Marchant, after receiving the NYFOA Special Recognition award

NEWS & NOTES

Now Available!!

 2002 Pest Management Guide for Commercial Production and Maintenance of Trees and Shrubs. 169 pages of all the information ever needed on targeting pests that are detrimental to trees and shrubs while maintaining the necessary ones, such as honey bees. Topics covered include: Pesticide Information, Use Pesticides Safely, Protect Honey Bees from Insecticides and Pesticide Control Legislation. Price is \$15.00 including shipping and tax! Order from: Cornell University, Resource Center- MW, 7 Cornell Bus. & Tech. Park, Ithaca, NY 14850. Updates on the information contained in the book is available at <http://pmep.cce.cornell.edu>.

Useful Web Page

 The below web page is a good one! Has useful information on: tree identification, beech bark disease, quiz, educational programs for teachers, and other forestry links. <http://forestry.msu.edu/msaf/Default.htm>

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NYS Legislature Considers Bills Affecting Forest Landowners

ROBERT MALMSHEIMER AND DONALD FLOYD

The New York State Legislature is considering a number of bills that could affect forest landowners. These bills address some of the issues that impact the management of private forests: forest land taxes, local ordinances that affect forest management, and landowner liability. This article provides an overview of four of these bills that have been introduced in both the NYS Assembly and Senate.

Forest Land Taxation

A number of bills have been introduced to amend Sections 480 and 480A of the Real Property Tax Law. This law provides real property tax exemptions for qualifying forest lands. While some bills would decrease §480A acreage requirements (A3420 and S4552), one bill addresses one of the main obstacles to expanding the §480A program: that §480A exemptions decrease the tax base of many towns and counties. A1948/S848 would address this problem by providing for full state reimbursement to local governments for any tax revenue losses sustained because of §480 and §480A exemptions. A coalition of forest landowners (including NYFOA), municipalities, business interests, sporting enthusiasts, and environmentalists endorsed the bill last year. It is currently under consideration by Assembly and Senate committees.

Local Government Forest Management Ordinances

Two bills address local government ordinances that affect forest management. Researchers have documented an increase in the number of these ordinances. Many forest owners, managers, and commentators believe that these ordinances restrict forest landowners' management decisions.

A9891/S6293 authorizes the DEC Commissioner, on her own initiative or

at the request of a local government, to issue an opinion as to whether a proposed ordinance will unreasonably restrict the practice of forestry. The bill is part of the NYS Legislative Commission on Rural Resources' bipartisan legislative program for this legislative session and is currently awaiting action by the Assembly and Senate Environmental Conservation committees.

A9190/S5574 would establish a different procedure for the review of local government forest management ordinances. This bill authorizes a "qualifying" forest landowner to request the DEC Commissioner to review an existing or proposed ordinance which the landowner alleges has or will unreasonably restrict the practice of forestry. The DEC Commissioner can also undertake such a review on her own initiative. After reviewing the existing or proposed ordinance, the Commissioner must recommend its approval, modification, or disapproval based on whether the ordinance promotes the long term viability of forestry. If the Commissioner recommends modification or disapproval of the existing or proposed ordinance, the local government may not act contrary to the recommendation except by an "extraordinary vote" – a super-majority vote as defined by the bill. In addition to its local ordinance provisions, this bill also increases the criminal and civil penalties for timber theft. It is currently under consideration by Assembly and Senate committees.

Landowner Liability for Recreational Activities

Section 9-103 of NYS General Obligations law currently provides a defense for landowners who make their lands available to the public for recreational activities. A number of bills would expand this section (A5972 and S3704). However, A6101/S2200,

which was passed by the Senate in March, has the best chance of being enacted. This bill would expand the application of the section to all recreational activities. The bill also clarifies that the section's protections exist whether or not the land is classified as a farm, and that the section does not imply any duty or obligation on the part of landowners to permit public access to their lands. The bill is part of the NYS Legislative Commission on Rural Resources' bipartisan legislative program for this legislative session.

continued on page 19

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The Role of Silviculture in Pest Management

DOUGLAS C. ALLEN

Approaches to pest management have changed substantially during the past 50 years in response to both environmental and economic concerns. The modern pest control philosophy we call "integrated pest management" emphasizes prevention of forest pest problems rather than reliance primarily on curative measures, such as application of chemical insecticides. The current emphasis on sustainable forestry, our heightened sensibility regarding water resources and other factors indicate that the new century will be even more restrictive about the tools we use to ameliorate the effects of forest insect pests.

Silviculture is the heart and soul of applied forestry. Appropriate silvicultural methods play an espe-

cially important role when management objectives center around forest resources such as wood fiber, water conservation, aesthetic and recreation values, or wildlife habitat. These methods are also a key component of sustainable forestry and, in many instances, promote forest health.

Silviculture is defined as the art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality of a forest or woodlot By "appropriate" I mean methods that are suitable for a given tree species or species mix, in a given geographic region, at a given time, under given site conditions. In the context of pest management, good silviculture is important because it is key to maintaining tree vigor, is a means of determining stand composition and is a way to adjust age class distribution. The latter two items are important because they can be used to enhance biological and structural diversity, respectively. Both may reduce stand susceptibility to outbreaks or lower vulnerability to damage. For example, defoliator outbreaks are less likely to occur in stands where the susceptible host or hosts are mixed with non-host species. When it is not possible or it is undesirable to mix species, age class diversity may be a good hedge against certain types of outbreaks. This is because different age classes of trees (e.g., seedlings, saplings, pole timber, sawtimber) are often subject to attack by different pests. A mixture or

mosaic of age classes makes it more difficult for many forest insect pests to attain outbreak levels.

Thinning is a silvicultural treatment made to reduce stand density to improve growth, enhance forest health or to recover potential mortality. By properly allocating growing space at key points in stand development (compare Fig. 1 with Fig. 2), thinning helps to minimize competition of trees for space, water and nutrients. This, in turn, maintains tree vigor and decreases the probability of attack by certain insects. Similarly, it may reduce the likelihood of damage that prevents the forest owner from attaining his or her management objectives. Low vigor trees often are unable to produce adequate defensive compounds or to instigate other



Figure 1 Abundant light coming through the canopy suggests that at this time the stand is not too crowded.

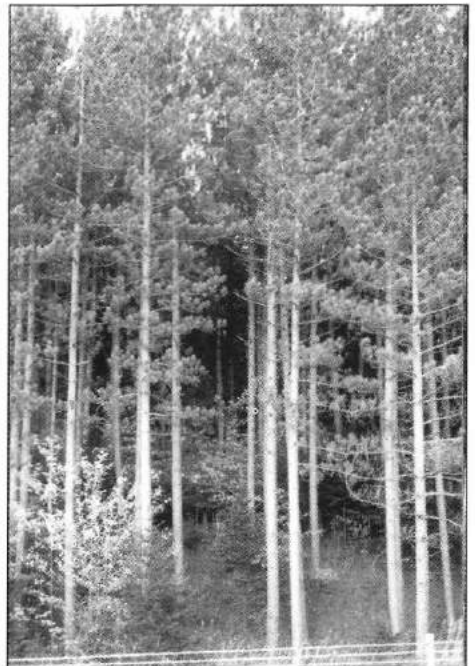


Figure 2. This stand is very dense and trees probably are struggling for space and nutrients.



Figure 3. Note skidding damage to tree bole and compacted soil immediately adjacent to tree.

measures used to deter insect attack. On the other hand, manipulating stand density also alters the physical characteristics of a forest, such as temperature, moisture, light intensity, and air movement. Some pests may respond favorably to these changes.

When thinning or harvesting, it is important to minimize physical

damage to the residual stand (i.e., the stand remaining after the treatment is done). Trees damaged by a skidder, felling or those affected by excessive soil compaction may be susceptible to insect attack (Fig. 3). Stresses of this nature always occur when cutting is done but can be minimized by properly laying out skid trails and directional felling.

Sanitation-salvage cuts are usually associated with bark beetle outbreaks. The purpose is to lower the insect population by removing infested trees before the insects complete development (sanitation). At the same time a forest owner may want to reduce financial losses by removing affected trees while they can still be utilized (salvage) (Fig. 4). Sanitary methods are not always coupled with salvage. For example, removing logging debris (slash or tops) may be a way to guard against certain pests, such as peach bark beetle (Fig. 5).

If one wants to establish a plantation, the proper choice of site conditions for a species is important to maximize survival and to ensure tree vigor. Matching species to site conditions is important during both



Figure 4. This wind-damaged white pine may be good fodder for bark beetles.

early stages of stand establishment and also much later when larger (more demanding) trees may become sensitive to marginal soil or moisture conditions.

Remember, every time you undertake a stand treatment of one type or another, or in any way disturb that site or stand, you may make that location either more or less susceptible to insect outbreaks. It is important to realize that many physical and biological factors affect an insect's life system; that is, several variables determine whether its population will increase, remain static or decrease. Stand condition is only one of these factors. In other words, there are no silvicultural "silver bullets" that will prevent all insect problems. Nonetheless, good silviculture is necessary to minimize the potential for outbreaks, or if an outbreak does occur, to minimize damage. ▲

This is the 62nd 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 5. This black cherry slash is infested with peach bark beetles.

Timber Theft

An Update on Activities of the Timber Theft Advisory Committee

HUGH O. CANHAM

There are many issues affecting forests in New York State. The unplanned or illegal cutting of trees on someone's property is not only a traumatic event for the owner but also disrupts planned management, is a financial loss, and can destroy other values the forest owner is working towards. The New York State Joint Legislative Commission on Rural Resources has taken on timber theft as a major concern. State senators Patricia McGee and Nancy Lorraine Hoffmann co-chair a Timber Theft Advisory Committee to review information and advise on possible legislation and other public or private programs for New York State. Approximately 25 persons representing various forestry interests across the State are on the committee. Members include landowners who have suffered theft, foresters, representatives of the wood-using industry, lawyers, and others from organizations. NYFOA is well represented on the Committee with Ron Pedersen, NYFOA President, two other NYFOA Board members, and a third NYFOA member on the Committee. The Committee grows out of the hearings held by the Legislative Commission across the state in the last two years, at which several NYFOA members testified.

Three activities fit under the broad heading of timber theft: Bad contract between logger and landowner; Accidental trespass on adjoining land; Stealing or deliberate trespass. The latter falls under the criminal act defined as larceny. In its deliberation the Committee has considered all types of theft but feels that the deliberate cutting

and stealing of someone's trees is the most onerous.

Many different actions were presented in public hearing and discussed by the Committee. Some require legislation but many others can be implemented by private organizations and through existing public programs.

Education is needed both for forest owners, loggers, and law enforcement personnel. Landowners should be better informed about property boundaries and their identification. The elements of a successful timber sale have been written down in many forms but probably most of the 250,000 + forest owners in New York State are unaware of how to have a successful timber harvest on their property.

Loggers need to be informed about boundaries, neighboring properties, stream crossing and other restrictions. This effort has progressed somewhat with the Certified Logger Training program in the State.

Law enforcement officials lack the time, training, and resources to investigate and prosecute timber theft crimes. The seriousness of timber theft; the values, financial and other, that are involved; how to investigate these kinds of crimes: all are important educational items. Law enforcement staffs are overloaded with many different criminal duties. Crimes against people often take precedent over crimes against property. This is a good idea but means that timber theft cases may not be given any attention.

Research is needed to determine the quantitative amount of timber theft. To date there is anecdotal information and

it is known that individual cases may involve \$50,000 or more of just timber stumpage loss. However, the extent to which the various kinds of theft occur across the State is not known. And quantification of the various environmental or "non-market" values lost should be measured.

Education and research can be undertaken with little or no explicit legislation. Furthermore, although having a quantitative dollars answer to the extent of theft would be nice, public legislation can, and often does, proceed without full background information. Legislative efforts discussed by the Committee have included increasing penalties for theft, licensing loggers, mandating a chain of custody, seizure of equipment used in a theft, notifying adjoining landowners, and establishing a standard set of procedures that would normally be followed.

There are some serious shortcomings and hardships attached to many ideas. One that seems to offer some promise, is establishing a set of codified standard operating procedures for conducting timber harvests in New York State. These would not be mandated for cutting but if a problem arose, failure to follow these procedures could be evidence of intent to commit a crime. Beyond the use in prosecuting timber theft, development and widespread circulation of these procedures could help inform forest owners of how to proceed and make them more aware of the issues with their land.

It is abundantly clear that no one action or program will eliminate all timber thefts. Any discussions need to

recognize the different kinds of theft referred to earlier. Furthermore, the effects of any action must be evaluated as to impacts on forest owners, legitimate timber harvesters, the wood-using industry, law enforcement officials, and society in general.

Members of NYFOA and others can do something now. They should contact their local state legislator and urge that person to keep informed of the activities of the Joint Legislative Commission on Rural Resources and to be alert to any forthcoming bills. In addition, NYFOA members can help in other ways. First, they can dispel the myth that all loggers are bad. We need wider acceptance of the many legitimate loggers and excellent harvesting operations that occur every day throughout the State. Loggers tend to get a "bad rap" due to the actions of just a few. Second, tell their friends and neighbors to always seek the advice of a forester before entering into any timber harvest arrangement. Third, remember that an important part of good management means inspecting your lands periodically for insect and disease outbreaks, to check boundary markings, and to look for any other unusual events.

The Timber Theft Advisory Committee continues to have meetings. Look for other articles and information in the Forest Owner and in chapter newsletters on this subject. ▲

Hugh Canham is a Professor of Forest Economics at SUNY ESF and a member of the NYFOA Executive Board.

NYS Legislature (continued from page 15)

The bill is currently awaiting action by the Assembly Insurance committee.

Conclusion

The enactment of these bills would affect many forest landowners' taxes, forest management practices, and liability. Forest landowners who would like more information about the bills, including their current status, can find it at the NYS Senate's and Assembly's websites (www.senate.state.ny.us and www.assembly.state.ny.us).

The NYS Legislative Commission on Rural Resources (Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12247) is requesting that landowners who support the bills, that are part of their bipartisan legislative program, write letters of support directly to the Commission. These letters will be forwarded to the appropriate legislative Committees and become part of the bill's official record. ▲

Robert Malmsheimer is an Assistant Professor of Forest Law and Policy at SUNY ESF and a member of the NYFOA Board of Directors. Donald Floyd is a Professor of Natural Resources Policy at SUNY ESF.



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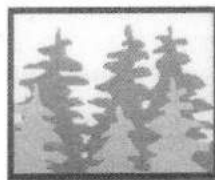
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Southern Adirondack Chapter Visits Old Tupelo Trees

MELINDA DURLLER

Nearly 100 people attended a woodwalk hosted by the Southeast Adirondack Chapter (SAC) of NYFOA on February 17 to see a pair of Tupelo trees that, at almost 500 years, are among New York's oldest trees. It was one of the group's most interesting mid-winter walks.

DEC Senior Forester John Hastings led the group into a 990-acre State wetland north of Saratoga, starting from NYFOA member Gregg Mackey's tree farm. A leisurely walk through the State forest area soon brought us to a swamp where the giant trees, plus 25 progeny, are thriving. The oldest Tupelo measure nine feet in circumference, with a trunk reaching some 70 feet to the cloudy winter sky.

The Tupelo tree (*Nyssa sylvatica*) goes by many names: Black Tupelo, Black Gum, Sour Gum Pepperidge, and Beetle Bund tree. Tupelos are generally

seen in profusion in Southern states, but they can range to the North if the right conditions exist, as is the case in the swamp we slogged through.

According to *The Tree Identification Book* by George W.D. Symonds, Tupelo bark varies from knobby and deeply furrowed to relatively smooth, and sometimes there is more than one type of bark on a single tree. Great knobby burls adorned the Tupelos we saw. During May and June, the Tupelo puts out medium-to-large blossoms. The shiny, dark-green leaves grow in clusters and can be short and wide, or long and narrow. Tupelos are among the first trees to turn color in the fall, and the leaves turn a brilliant red.

John Hastings pointed out to the group of 100 winter hikers that their presence here in the summertime would feed about 5 million mosquitoes.

A doctoral candidate from Columbia

University, Neil Pederson, did brave the awesome mosquito population during recent summers, while working on his thesis. He has researched both northern and southern extremes for various tree species. His work has richly rewarded all of us, as he has discovered the two Tupelos that are almost 500 years old. The even more encouraging aspect is that these Tupelos are so well protected that no blow-downs have been seen. A topographical map of this area shows that this swamp is the headwaters of three streams. It is a very stable environment with virtually no beaver activity to flood the swamp and kill the trees. Regenera-



Lunch afforded the opportunity for SAC members to relax by the fire.

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SAC members enjoy a fire & lunch near the tupelo site

tion is good, and more than 25 Tupelos have been counted here. The National Woodland Owners Association is in the early stages of developing a national oldest tree list, and the 500-year-old Tupelos found by Neil Pederson will be among the first to go on the list.

The land now owned by the State was originally settled, it is believed, by Isreal Standish on Cohen Road in 1795. His great great grandfather was Miles Standish. Relatives of the family still live in the area. The land was cleared for farming, as evidenced by great wide stone walls that line the woods road.


Two laws enabled New York State to purchase this land: one in the 1930s for reforestation projects, and the other in the 1960s for multiple use, including timber harvesting, wildlife habitat,



One of the oldest Tupelos (over 500 years)



SAC members John Wiley, Rolf Wentorf, Chrissy Wiley and Mary Machewka enjoy lunch near the tupelo site

recreation and watershed protection. The DEC will soon issue a unit-management plan for use of all state forests in Saratoga and Warren Counties. This will be available to the public in the near future. 

Melinda Durler is a member of the SAC of NYFOA.

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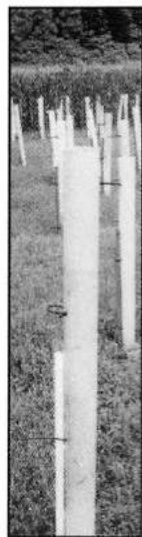
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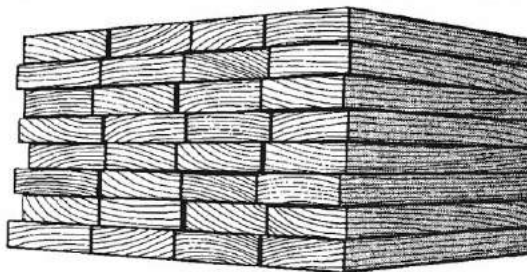
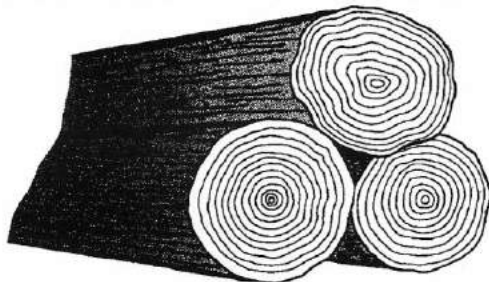
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