

# The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

July/August 2002



*Volume 40 Number 4*



**THE NEW YORK  
FOREST OWNERS  
ASSOCIATION**

Volume 40, Number 4

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## The New York Forest Owner

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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:** During the Game of Logging (GoL) course at Arnot Forest, participant John Miller, using the techniques taught by GoL instructor Bill Linloff, is doing a bore cut as part of a backcut. For more information on the GoL course see page 12. Photograph courtesy of Gary Goff.

# From The Vice-President

## NYFOA IN THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY

Since Ron Pedersen is on a two-month sojourn to Australia and New Zealand, I have the privilege of addressing our members and readers in this column. My opportunity comes at a very interesting time in the history of the New York Forest Owners Association. Over the past two years or so I have witnessed a renewed sense of purpose and energy in the Board of Directors and chapter leaders that I believe will have a very positive effect on this organization for many years in the future.

Recognizing the need for improved services to our members and a greater impact on



mission accomplishment, NYFOA has initiated several programs that we hope will significantly increase our membership and broaden outreach

to private forest landowners in New York State. A milestone was reached with the addition of an executive director. After a courageous decision to create the position of executive director and a long thorough search, Daniel Palm was selected from twelve outstanding applicants on December 12, 2001. Dan is now actively engaged with NYFOA and is a key leader in our programs.

Long-range plans for NYFOA's growth that were initiated as ideas in 1999 have been formulated and prioritized by the Board of Directors. The priority plans include providing additional NYFOA support to Chapters, expanding outreach to private forest owners, programs to increase NYFOA's membership, and enhance public policy. These programs are being implemented and will be undertaken by the end of 2003.

NYFOA has eleven chapters statewide. They are the backbone and lifeblood of this organization, and are the direct link to our members. Chapters provide educational opportunities to members through newsletters, woodswalks and many other activities. They go far beyond that by reaching out to private forest owners with workshops and personal contacts. Chapters

are leading the way in forming partnerships and co-sponsoring events with Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other organizations that result in higher quality workshops and educational activities, and increased attendance. Four of the chapters including CNY, NAC, SAC, and WFL are being expanded to cover additional counties that formerly had no chapter affiliation. NYFOA recently assigned eight counties to them, to insure that all NYFOA members receive the benefit of chapter programs.

NYFOA's mission is a very challenging one as the familiar statistics constantly remind us. There are over 250,000 private forest owners in New York State that have landholdings of 10 acres or more. According to surveys only a small number of them are actively managing their woodlots. That inattention leaves the woodlot owners vulnerable to making poor decisions. When poor decisions are made, both the woodlot owners and woodlots are likely to be losers. It is clear that outreach programs are needed to educate private woodlot owners on the values of wise stewardship practices.

NYFOA is a not-for-profit volunteer organization and I would be remiss if I did not recognize our generous volunteers here. There are hundreds of members across New York State who volunteer or volunteered countless hours to their chapters and this organization. Their only reward is pride in helping to improve woodland resources in this state. We are grateful and appreciative for the contributions of time and talent that they so graciously share with their chapter and our Forest Owners Association.

I wanted to conclude by emphasizing that the New York Forest Owners Association is in good hands! I have been associated with the Board of Directors for several years and have nothing but praise and admiration for the board. They bring a wealth of talent, professional experience and leadership to NYFOA. I am confident that with continued teamwork we will meet or exceed the goals that we are establishing for the future of this association.

—John Druke  
Vice-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:

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## May/June Issue

Kudos to Peter Smallidge for his "Woodlot Thinning" article. This article could aptly be used as the preamble for a course entitled "Caring For Your Forest -101." We too often get caught up in the buzzwords, acronyms, and scientific terms of this forestry business that would certainly confuse anyone trying to learn the basics. I hope to participate in the MFO program soon and would look forward to being armed with copies of Peter's article when counseling with forest owners who are trying to learn what this thing called "forest

stewardship" is all about. The article is simple and straightforward and reveals the insight on Peter's part that there are many new or "uneducated" NYFOA members that would gain a great deal from his article.

-Robert A. Sandberg  
AFC Chapter  
Frewsburg, NY

## Story of a Spring Planting

For the past twelve years, my son and I have planted from four hundred to two thousand trees each spring. We recently purchased an additional 274 acres of land that had been clear cut by the previous owners. The lands had been severely abused by the clear cut approximately two to three years prior. Some regeneration is occurring, but the deer population has, by and far, been decimating those attempts.

Therefore my wife and I embarked on a spring tree planting endeavor this year which included the placement of one thousand white pine two by two transplants (two year seedling, two year transplants which makes them four years of growth) and one thousand white pine seedlings. Some of the areas we planted had very limited regeneration. The white pine were to replace the original forest which was predominately white pine and hemlock.

We picked up the first package of 400 trees on Monday morning. The excitement and adrenaline bricked us through that planting and we were done by Tuesday afternoon. We were tired but feeling very good about the accomplishment and proud of the trees! We headed back the next Monday morning with 600 trees and a helper. Son, Jeff, dug the holes and with two of us planting, we were just able to keep up. By the end of the morning we had half of them in.

There were other projects that required my son's assistance, so we tended to them in the afternoon. Unfortunately, Jeff had to return home that evening. Wednesday morning we

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## NYFOA Scholarship Fund

As of June 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.

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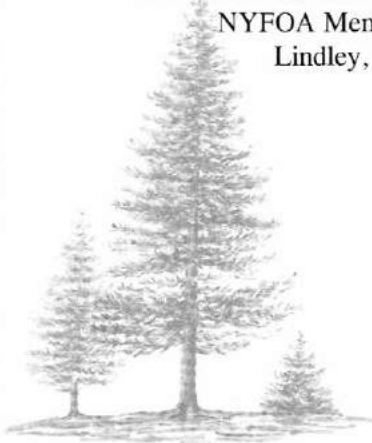
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opted to start in the very early morning since the forecast was for 90 degrees that day. By late morning I had lost my helper to the heat. She just could not tolerate the sun and heat so she sat in the shade of a few pines left along the way and cheered me on from the side lines. Actually, she was trying to convince me to take a break from the heat, but those trees needed to be planted, so I pushed on and the trees were planted.

Two days later, Friday morning, we picked up the second thousand trees. When I ordered seedlings, I expected tiny one year growth and minimal root systems. Much to our amazement, these seedlings had some major roots! We realized we would be back to digging those big holes again. Were we up to the task? Could we outlast the tree supply? Had we lost our minds?

It took us four days to plant those trees. The last couple hundred were indeed the hardest. We did not move at the pace of the first days...we did not have the enthusiasm...nor the energy. We did take a break to go to church Sunday morning and we even caught a special service on Monday evening. That certainly helped! (In many ways, I suppose, when viewed in retrospect.) Oh, and one more thing. That last Monday we planted trees, it snowed. In fact, we had rain, sleet and snow. The Wednesday before we baked in 90 degrees. We were thrilled with the snow! The trees didn't seem to mind either. 🌲

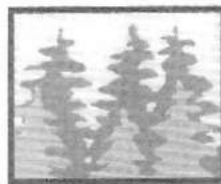
-Edward Piestrak  
New York Tree Farmer  
NYFOA Member  
Lindley, NY



### Correction



*Correction:* The original caption that appeared below this photograph on page 7 of the May/June 2002 issue in Peter Smallidge's article, *Woodlot Thinning to Achieve Landowners Goals*, was incorrect. The correct caption should have read: "Plastic flagging is used to designate trees retained as future crop trees during a thinning." Our apologies for the error.



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# 2002 Farm Bill

## Provides Assistance to Forest Landowners

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ROBERT MALMSHEIMER, MICHAEL GOERGEN, AND DONALD FLOYD

On May 13, President George Bush signed the 2002 Farm Bill, officially known as the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. The Act contains provisions in a Forestry Title that affect all Forest Landowners, and provisions in the Conservation Title that affect farmers, and in some specific programs, forest landowners as well. These provisions add, amend, and repeal many programs used by New York forest landowners.

This article summarizes the forestry provisions in the Act. We then provide an in-depth analysis of the Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP), the program that replaces the Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) and Stewardship Incentives Program (SIP). We conclude with comments about why the 2002 Act is a significant improvement over previous Farm Acts.

### Summary of Forestry Provisions

#### *Forestry Title*

The first two sections of the Forestry Title repeal FIP and SIP and replace them with FLEP. The other two major sections of this Title add a new Community and Private Land Fire Protection Program (CPLFPP) and a new Sustainable Forestry Outreach Initiative (SFOI), within the Renewable Resources Extension Act. The Title also extends the existence of the Forest Service's Office of International Forestry and "reaffirms" the importance of the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Program.

Congress designed CPLFPP to promote firefighting efficiency on federal and non-federal lands and protect communities from wildfires. The Forest Service will administer the program through State Foresters and

other state officials. Congress authorized the program at \$35 million annually through 2007.

The purpose of the SFOI is to educate landowners on: 1) the value and benefits of practicing sustainable forestry, 2) the importance of professional forestry advice in achieving sustainable forestry objectives, and 3) the public and private resources available to assist them. SFOI is authorized at \$30 million annually through 2007.

#### *Conservation Title*

Conservation Title programs are applicable to farm producers and in some cases forest landowners. The Farm Act increases funding for almost every existing agricultural-environmental program and adds two new programs. For example, the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) provides for \$360 million of mandated funding from 2002 through 2007.

The most important program expanded by the Conservation Title was the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). This program provides cost-share payments and other incentive payments to assist with conservation and environmental improvements. The 2002 Farm Act emphasized that nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) lands are categories of lands eligible for EQIP.

#### **The Forest Land Enhancement Program**

FLEP is a cost-share program that encourages the long-term sustainability of NIPFs. It provides NIPF owners with financial assistance to offset forest management costs.

The Secretary of Agriculture will implement the program through State

Foresters. State Foresters will: 1) coordinate their activities with State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committees (SFSCC), and 2) consult with other federal, state, and local natural resource agencies, institutions of higher education, and a broad range of other stakeholders. The Secretary will develop a list of approved forestry activities and practices for each state in consultation with that state's State Forester and SFSCC. The Act limits these activities and practices to:

1) the establishment, management, maintenance, and restoration of forests for shelterbelts, windbreaks, aesthetic quality, and other conservation purposes;

2) the sustainable growth and management of forests for timber production;

3) the restoration, use, and enhancement of forest wetland and riparian areas;

4) the protection of water quality and watersheds through the planting of trees in riparian areas, and the enhanced management and maintenance of native vegetation on land vital to water quality;

5) the management, maintenance, restoration, or development of habitat for plants, fish, and wildlife;

6) the control, detection, monitoring, and prevention of the spread of invasive species and pests on nonindustrial private forest lands;

7) the restoration of NIPF land affected by invasive species and pests;

8) the conduct of other management activities (such as the reduction of hazardous fuels), that reduce the risks to forests posed by (and that restore, recover, and mitigate the damage to forests caused by) fire or any other catastrophic event determined by the Secretary;

9) the development of management plans;

10) the conduct of energy conservation and carbon sequestration activities; and

11) the conduct of other activities approved by the Secretary (in consultation with the State Forester and SFSCC).

To be eligible for the program, a NIPF owner must develop and implement a management plan. The management plan must: 1) be prepared in consultation with the State Forester, another state official, or a professional resource manager, 2) be approved by the State Forester, 3) provide for the treatment of 1,000 acres or less (up to 5,000 acres are eligible if the activities will result in "significant public benefits"), and 4) address site specific activities and practices from their state's list of approved forestry activities. The NIPF owner must implement the management plan's activities for at least ten years, unless the State Forester approves a management plan modification.

Eligible forest landowners may receive up to 75% of the total cost of implementing their management plan's approved activities and practices. However, the Secretary will have a mechanism to recapture cost-share funds paid to a forest landowner who fails to implement an approved activity or practice specified in the management plan. The Act requires that FLEP receive \$100 million of funding from May 2002 until September 30, 2007.

### Conclusion

Despite Congress's failure to include several new forestry initiatives that were in previous versions of the Senate and House bills (e.g., the Sustainable Forestry Cooperative Program) and Congress's repeal of FIP and SIP, the 2002 Act is a significant improvement over previous Farm Acts (see sidebar). The mandatory funding requirements for FLEP – and other programs with required funding, such as WHIP – will ensure that FLEP receives adequate funding, rather than rely on the

notoriously unpredictable annual Congressional appropriations that undermined FIP and SIP. This will guarantee that FLEP receives the funds needed to provide NIPF owners the cost-share assistance they require to manage their forests sustainably. ▲

*Robert Malmshiemer is an Assistant Professor of Forest Law and Policy at SUNY ESF and a member of the NYFOA Board of Directors. Michael Goergen is the Senior Director of Policy and Programs at the Society of American Foresters. Donald Floyd is a Professor of Natural Resources Policy at SUNY ESF.*

## History of Forestry Provisions in Farm Bills

Congress developed the first farm bill in the 1920s to address agricultural commodity programs. It enacted a Conservation Title in the 1985 farm law, which included several new programs for forest landowners. Since then, forestry provisions have been included in both forestry sections in Farm Acts' Conservation Titles and in separate Forestry Titles.

The 1990 Farm Act was the first to include a separate Forestry Title. This Act included several amendments to the 1978 Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act, including authorization of the Forest Legacy Program, Forest Stewardship Program, Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) and Stewardship Incentives Program. The Act also included a separate Conservation Title with forestry-related elements, such as tree-planting initiatives.

The 1996 Farm Bill did not include a specific forestry title, but it did include a forestry section within the Conservation Title. This section addressed aspects of FIP, Forest Legacy, and other programs. The Conservation Title of the 1996 Farm Bill built on conservation initiatives enacted in 1985 and 1990, and converted many programs' funding to entitlements financed with Commodity Credit Corporation funds.

*Adapted from: <http://pinchot.org/pic/farmbill/History.html>*

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# A Tale of Two Visits: *One A Victory, One A Draw*

JERRY MICHAEL AND GARY GOFF

New York's Master Forest Owner/COVERTS Volunteer Program has been the subject of several articles in the NY Forest Owner over the past decade. There are now 184 certified volunteers representing 46 counties throughout the state. The primary "assignment" for the volunteers is to visit neighbor forest owners to walk their property and discuss items of interest to the forest owner. Last year 62 volunteers reported making 98 on-site visits, totaling over 4,100 acres (I'm sure many more visits were made, but reports from volunteers are difficult to obtain!). A total of 46 volunteers also reported participating in 335 additional outreach activities (workshops, articles, youth group activities, etc.) reaching an estimated audience of about 11,000.

The Master Forest Owner (MFO) volunteers do not provide technical services but instead provide information on where and how to obtain more information on stewardship issues. The volunteers attend an initial 4-day training session at Cornell's Arnot Forest and many take advantage of the annual regional

refresher workshops each summer and fall. The training and updates complement the knowledge and experience the volunteers have acquired over years of forest ownership and management in their communities.

Every visit is truly unique and always interesting. Here are a couple of tales from visits conducted by Jerry Michael, a very active and knowledgeable volunteer (and NYFOA member) from Broome County. Both these stories have sawtimber as the focus, which often is the incentive behind the request for a visit. The volunteers also are trained in wildlife management issues and can give advice regarding how to learn more about nuisance and desirable species.

## The Victory

In January 2001 a neighbor at my Whitney Point woodlot informed me that he was considering a contract to harvest a 40-acre stand adjoining my property. A local sawmill had offered him \$50,000 for trees they had marked, mostly red oak, hard and soft maple. I told him I would look the stand over the next day and get back to



*George Bulin, MFO volunteer from Schuyler Co., points out canker lesions on an American Chestnut stump sprout.*

him. I noted that many of the marked trees were not economically mature (as small as 16" dbh) and that the marking did not include any thinning of culls. I suggested that he pick a Consultant Forester off the NYS DEC list of "NYS Cooperating Foresters" which I gave him and ask the Forester to remark the stand and put it out for competitive bid. I gave him numerous examples of the results he might expect.

When I returned from Florida a couple of months later, I saw the neighbor "playing" with a new top-of-the-line Woodmizer in his barnyard. I stopped and asked him when he got the new toy and he answered, "It just arrived, and I have you to thank for it." It seems he had taken my advice. His consultant remarked the stand, saving some of the trees with good additional growth potential, and eliminating some culls. There were six bidders and the top bid was \$80,000. I guess some of the Oak must have been veneer grade. The ironic twist to this tale is that the top bidder was the same outfit that had originally offered him \$50,000!

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## The Draw

Last March Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County asked me to do a MFO visit for a couple who had been offered \$28,000 for "all trees 16 inches dbh and larger" on their 160-acre woodlot. During our tour over most of the even-aged stand, I pointed out that there were lots of valuable Red Oak and Hard Maple in the 16 inch to 19 inch range, but none any larger. I used the charts on my Biltmore stick to show how much volume is added as the tree grows to 22 inch, and discussed the impact on grade and overall value. I pointed out that the woodlot had never been thinned and that they could realize a very lucrative harvest in as little as ten years if they invested in some Timber Stand Improvement (TSI). I also pointed out that their boundaries were indistinct and they were seriously at risk of becoming victims of timber theft. I recommended that they find a consultant forester to review my conclusions and perhaps arrange for some TSI. I speculated that they might realize enough income from a few "risk" trees (mostly partial blowdowns) to offset the cost of the TSI.

The couple did have a consultant forester look at their woodlot, after which he offered to perform a complete stand inventory and TSI marking for \$1200. The consultant felt that the risk trees were too widely dispersed to warrant the damage that would result from trying to harvest them. The couple was not interested in making an out-of-pocket investment in TSI, and decided to just let the trees grow as fast and as much as nature permits. They did agree to have the property surveyed however, and even got an adjoining property owner to split the cost. The owners are literally sitting on a bit of a "gold mine" because, with TSI, I'm convinced it would produce a harvest worth much, much more than the initial offering of \$28,000 in just in ten years. Even such persuasive arithmetic fails to convince everyone though, so I guess this visit was a "draw," from my perspective. BUT, more importantly, the owners did get involved in forest stewardship as demonstrated by the survey, and they did make a conscious decision regarding the option of the TSI work. ▲

*Jerry Michael is a member of the SOT chapter and Treasurer of NYFOA. Gary Goff is MFO/COVERTS Program Director.*



*George Bulin, MFO volunteer from Schuyler Co., looking over soil maps with Randall Slimak, forest owner from Steuben Co., in preparation for an on-site visit.*

Continued support for the NY Master Forest Owner/COVERTS program comes from five non-governmental organizations: The Ruffed Grouse Society, The Wentorf Foundation, The NY Woodland Stewards Inc., The NY Forest Owners Assoc., and The NY Chapt. of the Nat'l. Wild Turkey Federation. Additional funding is supplied via The USDA Renewable Resources Extension Program. Critical, non-financial support is donated by the NYS DEC Div. of Lands and Forests.

If you are interested in a visit from a MFO/COVERTS volunteer contact your county Cooperative Extension or regional DEC office for a listing of volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, contact Gary Goff, [grg3@cornell.edu](mailto:grg3@cornell.edu), 607/255-2824. Listings, application forms, and much more information on the program can be obtained from the website: [www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/mfo/](http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/mfo/)

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# Ask the FORESTER



ROBERT BROCK

## Question:

What is the accuracy of a typical Global Positioning System (GPS) hand held receiver if no post-processing is used and there is no selective availability imposed by the government?

-Jim Martin


## Answer:

The GPS position normally consists of latitude, longitude and height above sea level. The GPS units determine the distance to each satellite that they are tracking. Under ideal conditions the code-based accuracy for each of these distances is plus or minus 3 meters. You can think of the satellites as being control stations and at any one time the GPS unit needs to determine the distances to 4 satellites. This enables a trilateration type solution (based on

measured distances) that yields the 3 dimensional position of the GPS unit. Most modern hand held GPS units are 12 parallel channels, differential ready receivers. A 12 channel receiver is important since at times a unit may be receiving data simultaneously from as many as 10 satellites. As in many surveying problems the positions of the satellites (control points) are critical and the best solution for the position of the GPS unit is when the satellites are widely distributed in the sky. Since the satellites are continually moving, and each position usually has a different portion of the sky visible, it is often necessary to spend several minutes on a point in order to obtain a satisfactory position. One of the pages of the GPS unit usually shows the current positions of the satellites and indicates which ones the unit is

tracking. The actively tracked satellites should be evenly distributed and at least one should be well elevated in the sky for a reasonable height solution.

The stated accuracy of most hand held units is less than 15 meters 95% of the time. It is important to realize that this is the horizontal accuracy. Results for the horizontal values are generally 2 to 5 times better than those for the height values. A large reason for this is the superior geometric strength of the intersecting horizontal angles as opposed to that of the vertical angles that come into play during the solution. In addition, receivers use a mathematical model to interpret mean sea level heights. Depending on location, the model may introduce a meter or more of uncertainty into the final vertical value. Many hand held units have the capability to give the user average results for a position along with the estimated precision for the position. This generally refers to the horizontal position and not the height value. Some newer units show the estimated height precision on the main position page. In each case let the unit collect data for 3 or more minutes when the number and location of the satellites are acceptable.

So in spite of many variables, some of which have been mentioned, what accuracy can be realistically expected? In order to provide a reasonable and current answer, in May of 2002, I used a typical 12 channel hand held unit to determine the positions of a number of known stations. These stations were located with dual-frequency, survey-grade GPS receivers and positions were obtained that are accurate to 1 to 5 centimeters. Average errors were observed for both clear and forested areas. The accompanying table is a summary of the results. 

### Position Results with Hand Held GPS Units Located at Known Control Points

No Post-Processing and No Selective Availability Imposed

Clear areas with little overhead masking.			
	Latitude (meters)	Longitude (meters)	Mean Sea Level Height (m)
Average Absolute Error *	2.5	2.8	12.2
2 Standard Deviations (95%) **	3.2	4.6	8.6
Forested areas including light to dense and hardwood, softwood and mixed.			
	Latitude (meters)	Longitude (meters)	Mean Sea Level Height (m)
Average Absolute Error	5	3.7	14.3
2 Standard Deviations (95%) **	4.6	5	8.6

\* Average accuracy for all points.

\*\* The plus or minus variation one can expect 95 times out of 100 for the average absolute error.

The horizontal accuracy, which is the combination of the latitude and longitude errors, is 3.8 meters for the clear areas and 6.2 meters for the forested areas. A value of 30 meters per arc second was used to convert the results that were observed in degrees, minutes and seconds to the nearest tenth of a second. These values fall within the expected results for this type of GPS receiver.

Robert Brock is a Professor in the Faculty of Environmental Resources and Forest Engineering at SUNY-ESF in Syracuse where he teaches Photogrammetry and Global Positioning System courses. He earned a PhD degree in the field of Civil Engineering from Cornell University and he is a Fellow in The American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing.

# Woodlot Calendar

## 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 1, 2002 (Sunday)

Deadline for submitting the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) application to the NYS DEC. See page 18 for full article on the program.

## 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.

## If we don't preserve historical chestnut memories now, who will understand the significance of this native tree's return?

Social, cultural, and historical preservation of the American chestnut story begins at home, with you, and the thousands of The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) members.

### Gathering Stories....

Perhaps you have memories of this once great native tree. We want to place your story in the foundation's archives. Perhaps your parents, or community members, have recounted chestnut memories to you. We want their stories too. Perhaps you remember a story from a long-gone relative. We'd like to read your rendition of that story.

### It's an easy process....

Just sit down, relax and let your mind wander back to your youth. If interviewing your parents, a relative, or community member have them do the same. Don't forget to include the details, or color, of the times, surroundings, and personalities of the individuals involved.

### Submitting American chestnut memories....

We will accept handwritten or typed chestnut memories sent by postal service (The American Chestnut Foundation, 469 Main Street, Suite 1, PO Box 4044, Bennington, VT 05201), fax (802-447-0110) or e-mail (chestnut@acf.org). If you prefer, you may record the memories you're gathering on either regular or mini cassette tapes.

### Finally....

If at all possible, submit a new or historic photo (description & return address on back) with the memoir. The foundation may publish an anthology of these collected chestnut memoirs, and photos are of significant historical importance.

# Advice from the Lucky

TIM LEVATICH WITH PHOTOS BY GARY GOFF

I was 16 years old when an adult, who shall remain unnamed, gave me my first lesson in chainsaw use. We went out to our forest and picked a tall red maple on level ground. There were no buildings or other obstacles nearby. The trees were nice big poles and the job at hand looked simple. It was a good setting for basic training and I was eager to get going. As a demonstration, my teacher performed the notch cut then the back cut, and, hustling away, yelled "Timberrrr!". The tree crown promptly lodged against another one and we were stuck. After a couple of minutes of pondering, we used a peavey to get our training stem rolling and noticed too late that it was headed in a bad direction. It rolled off a second crown as well and came down with an impressive "Whoosh!" and a "Thud!", plus a sickening "Whack!" as the bole hit the front corner of the car! After a long pause, he said, "Well, that's how NOT to do it." The lessons went better after that, although I shudder at some of the life-threatening near misses during the early years of thinning and cleaning our 82 acres of northern hardwoods.

A few years later, I was a student at the University of Maine with the best work/study job I could imagine - cutting pulpwood and sawlogs in the University Forest near Old Town. I couldn't wait for Tuesday and Thursday afternoons to



*Every stump tells a story. Bill Linloff, GoL Instructor, examines width of the hinge. Stumps are an important learning tool!*

come around so I could use my skills and pile up the wood. The Forest Supervisor even complemented me once on my output. It was heaven. But one day we were working in a mature white pine stand, with dominants over 100 feet tall and nearly 3 feet in diameter when I got a reminder that heaven might be closer than I would like.

I had just finished the back cut on one of the big trees and had stepped to the side of the stump about 10 feet to watch it fall. It was perfectly aimed between unmarked trees - another fine job. These guys had been hitting the ground with a great crash, but I don't recall this one making any sound at all. Just before it hit the ground, I was beamed on the head by a short, stout branch that had broken out of the crown as the tree started to move. I saw a blinding

flash of light and winced as the branch glanced off my hardhat and shoulder. I was literally saved by my hardhat. It still hurt like the dickens and I was surprised at how small that branch was.

A year after that, I was working near the shore of Cayuga Lake, with all of my safety gear on except my face and eye protection. I was "bouncing" a slender maple off another tree's crown. The hinge was completely severed and the tree would roll off if I could get it moving enough. I looked up because it was being stubborn. At that split second, even before I could blink, a falling twig punctured the cornea of my right

eye and knocked me to my knees. This is my only lasting injury. I know that many people have not had such good luck. I could probably give detailed descriptions of the above three incidents, hold a contest and see who could identify the most mistakes. I would humbly accept your dozens of correct answers.

Most of the work that active forest owners need to do can best be done using a chainsaw. You need to get that timber stand improvement done, or create the picturesque forest trail you have been dreaming about, not to mention gathering fuelwood for your home or camp. So, why not make the work as safe and easy as possible?

Since we manage our own forest fairly intensively, I am always looking for ways to cut more efficiently. In the summer of



*Demonstrating the importance of safety equipment is an important part of the Game of Logging course.*



*Bill Linloff, GoL Instructor, demonstrating how to make a 70 degree open face cut.*

2000, after 25 years of using a chainsaw and picking up tips wherever I could, I took the *Game of Logging* level 1 class and discovered just how out of date I was. Soren Eriksson and the certified trainers in *Game of Logging* have developed a full range of techniques and methods to make your work in the woods safer, more efficient, and more productive. You plan each action with quick steps designed to get the tree on the ground in top condition and yourself back to your home in one piece.

The term "game" comes from the scoring that complements the training. Both professional loggers and land-owners have the option of entering true competitions after having completed their respective levels of training. Separate

courses are designed and held for professionals and landowners. These courses are routinely updated.

I now work better and more easily in the woods. I can work longer without getting tired. My saw runs better and cuts well every day. I work smarter, safer, and more efficiently. This spring I took *Game of Logging* level 2 at Cornell's Arnot Forest and learned even more. There are three levels for landowners, each one is a full day of hands-on training in the woods, and I intend to take level 3 soon. Both of my classes had a full range of people, from beginner to experienced. Beginners often score very well.

I urge you give *Game of Logging* a try. The lessons are conducted under careful observation and guidance, rather than

trusted to the often unkind "school of hard knocks." Most of all, I urge you to do this now, before you gamble your precious life and limb on dumb luck, exhausting trial, and dangerous error.

For more information on Game of Logging and how to sign up for a class near you, contact "NY Trained Logging Certification," Empire Forested Products Association, 518/463-1297, or by email at [esfpa@sprintmail.com](mailto:esfpa@sprintmail.com). ▲

*Tim Levatich is a member of the SFL chapter of NYFOA. He helps his father, Peter Levatich, with the management of Hobnob Forest near Brooktondale, NY. His day job is Database Administrator at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.*



*Bill Linloff is about to advise participant (John Miller) that the face cut needs to be more open, greater than 70 degrees.*



*A woman participant (Jodi Zimmerman) finishing her face cut with Bill Linloff looking on.*

# Stone Walls

## *A Great Place to Cross Over*

LARRY VAN DE VALK

I love old stone walls. They are reminders of by-gone days when families and neighbors worked together to clear land for crop production or pasture. I sometimes rest my back against one at my favorite spring turkey-hunting spot. They are a great place to find wild raspberries and blackcaps with my children on summer afternoon walks. Sometimes I spot deer crossing through a bar-gap, or a grouse strutting along the top of the wall. And it's a great place to take a break from working in my woodlot to soak up some sunshine.

In days of old, these walls were barriers for livestock; they separated field and forest. Often they served as boundary lines for private property, as they still may do today. In human terms, they are dividing lines. But as Mother Nature reminds us, stone walls and field borders nourish and provide excellent cover for many different types of wildlife. Which brings me to my point...

In my professional position, I attend many meetings and workshops in New York State. Many are agriculturally related, like the NYS Agricultural Society meeting, Empire Farm Days, NY Farm Show, Vegetable Growers' Conference, Dairy Producers Conference, etc. Some are forestry related, like NYFOA meetings, maple workshops, and the NYS Society of American Foresters annual meeting. I enjoy meeting conference participants, learning about what they do, and finding ways to "cross the stone walls" that divide us.

Often I will ask a dairy farmer, for example, if he is a forest owner or steward. Usually the answer is: "No, I'm a dairy farmer... I grow crops and produce milk." They say this even though I know they own wooded land, pay taxes on it, occasionally have it harvested (often without the expertise of a consultant forester), and enjoy it for

recreational purposes. The story is the same with other "traditional" farmers, be they vegetable, grain, fruit or livestock producers.

Likewise, I ask forest owners and consultants if they are farmers or crop advisors, respectively. The answer here is usually the same: "No, I'm a timber producer... a consulting forester... Christmas tree grower. I'm not a farmer."

I strongly disagree. I point to the fact that the only difference between growing a tree and a corn plant is the length of time it takes to mature. Both "sides of the fence" plant and nurture a crop. Both are concerned about disease and insect problems. Both are at the mercy of the weather. And both are subject to market price fluctuations, demand, and trade policies when they harvest.

We share many issues of concern too: property and income taxes, pesticide use, neighbor relations, environmental regulations, estate planning and family transfers, trade regulations, timber trespass, etc. The list goes on and on. If you examine the issues closely, you'll find that forestry and farming have a lot more in common than they do not. By the way, isn't the US Forest Service part of the US Department of Agriculture?



Fences and stone walls are great places to view wildlife, hunt, or just sit and enjoy both the forest and the field. They are also a great metaphor for what divides the forestry and 'traditional' agricultural industries.

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To some extent, closer working relationships between these two traditionally isolated industries are being developed. The New York Forest Owners Association is making a good effort to reach out to landowners – especially farmers – that have not often thought of themselves as forest owners. Likewise, organizations like NY Farm Bureau are making efforts to educate their members about forestry related issues like timber trespass, and lobbying for legislation that is “forest-friendly.”


On a more personal level, I would suggest forest industry participation in LEAD New York to build our sense of team concerning important issues, and improve leadership skills among our people. LEAD is a two-year leadership training and development program for adult professionals working in New York’s food and agricultural industry. We take 25-30 adults, ages 25 and up, and put them through monthly workshops from October through April of each year. These workshops are generally three days in length, and are a combination of speaker presentations, group discussions and activities, and tours, all revolving around agricultural and food systems issues. We seek to enhance our participant’s leadership skills (public speaking, conflict resolution, listening, etc.), give them a better appreciation of the complexities of the food and fiber

system (from soil to consumers plate and everything in between), and the legislative process at the local, state, federal, and international level (and how to be effective at influencing that process). We travel to all corners of the state, and take additional trips to Canada, Washington, D.C., and a study tour to a foreign country in the second year of the program. As I indicated above, many of the issues we study are directly related to the forest industry!

One of the greatest strengths of our program has been the diversity of our participants. We have 230 alumni and 27 current class members that represent a wide variety of both production agriculture operations and service related industries. These include, but are not limited to: banking, insurance, cooperative management, extension, government agency, not-for-profit, research, labor, education and marketing businesses. I have often said that our participants learn as much from each other as they do from our workshop presenters. A more diverse class leads to a better program for all.

We would welcome greater participation from those involved in New York’s forest industry. This would be an excellent opportunity for you to share your knowledge of forestry related issues, and at the same time, learn about the “bigger picture” of agriculture and

the food system. If you would like more information about the program, you can call me at (607) 255 – 7907, e-mail to [ljb4@cornell.edu](mailto:ljb4@cornell.edu), or visit our website at: [www.cals.cornell.edu/LEADNY/](http://www.cals.cornell.edu/LEADNY/). We will be accepting applications for Class X during the winter of 2003.

Let’s cross over some stone walls together, to learn and enjoy what each other has to offer. LEAD New York is a great opportunity to build our working partnership! 

*Larry Van De Valk is a NYFOA member, Christmas Tree Grower, and owned a Certified Tree Farm in Schoharie County. He is also Director of LEAD New York, a 2-year leadership training and development program for people involved in New York’s agricultural and food systems industry. For further information, contact him at (607) 255-7907 or [ljb4@cornell.edu](mailto:ljb4@cornell.edu).*

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# The Checkered Beetles: Well Equipped to Search & Destroy

DOUGLAS C. ALLEN

Populations of most forest insects are kept in check by an array of natural enemies such as birds, small mammals and parasitic or predaceous insects. If it were not for these natural enemies, outbreaks would be more common and of longer duration. One of the basic rules of contemporary insect pest management is to employ control tactics that decrease pest numbers below levels at which they will detract from management objectives and, at the same time, to use tactics that have no or minimal effect on beneficial insects. Once we understand a pest's biology and potential for damage, the next step is to examine the ecology and control potential of its common natural enemies.

Checkered beetles comprise a

family of predators very important in the control of beetles associated with the inner bark of woody plants. They are the most important predators of our native bark beetles. The common name of this group relates to the fact that adults often have a varied and often striking color pattern on the wing covers. The latter form the "back" or top of the beetle and are mainly what you would be looking at if it landed in your hand or when it rests on the trunk of a tree. Two characteristics make these insects very effective predators: both adults and immatures are predaceous on the same host, and studies of a few species indicate adults have a very efficient host-finding behavior.

Adults are elongate, often brightly colored with red or yellow and distinctly hairy with a

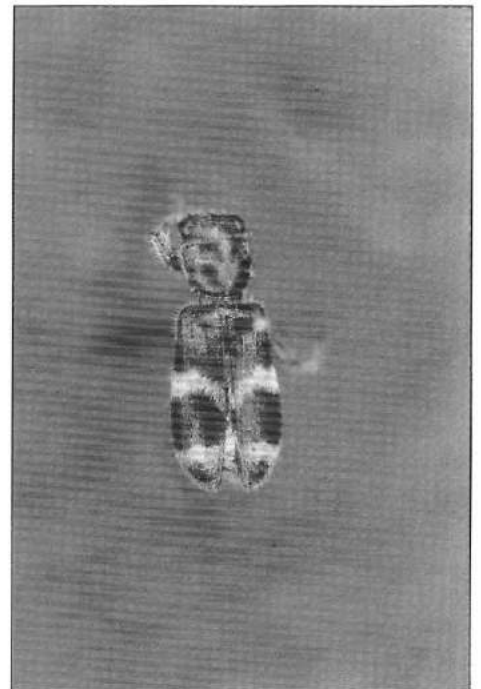


Figure 1. An adult checkered beetle.



Figure 2. A checkered beetle larva.

pronounced region behind the head resembling a "neck" (Fig. 1). Research with the southern pine bark beetle, a major pest of pole to sawtimber sized pine in the south, revealed that checkered beetles are able to use volatile behavioral chemicals to locate prey. For example, when the female southern pine beetle locates a suitable brood tree, she releases a chemical that attracts both males and females to that site. This chemical, combined with the attractive nature of certain odors produced by a susceptible (injured or low vigor) pine, enhances mating by bringing the sexes together and encourages a "mass attack." The latter increases





**Figure 3.** Typical bark beetle brood or egg-laying gallery (A) where checkered beetle larvae forage. Bark beetle eggs are deposited along the sides of the brood gallery (B).

the likelihood that a colony of bark beetles will be able to successfully establish in the tree. Checkered

beetles have adapted to these signals. What better way to enhance survival than to utilize the prey's own chemical messengers and to hone in on signals given off by a susceptible tree where there is a relatively high probability of finding bark beetles?

The immature stage or larva (larvah) is 0.25 to 0.50 inches long (Fig. 2) and, like the adult, is also clothed in short, erect hairs. Depending on the species, larvae (lar-vee) usually are a shade of red, yellow, brown, or bluish. This life stage is hard shelled, slightly flattened, and has well-developed legs. The mouthparts or "jaws" are projected forward, somewhat like a pair of grass clippers.

The life cycle of a checkered beetle is usually closely attuned to that of its host. The female deposits eggs in the entrance hole made by a bark beetle or wood borer. Larvae are ideally equipped to forage in host galleries beneath the bark (Fig. 3). Their streamlined shape, hard shell and forward projecting jaws are well

suitable for prowling bark beetle galleries in search of host eggs and larvae. Adult checkered beetles feed on bark beetle adults when the latter land on the bark of a host tree or log, or when the bark beetle attempts to excavate an entrance hole. Most checkered beetles overwinter beneath tree bark as immatures and transform into adults come spring. A few species vacate their prey's habitat and winter in litter. ▲

*This is the 63rd 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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# Help for Forest Regeneration Problems

BY JILL CORNELL

The New York State deer herd has increased to over one million deer, and with that increase comes more problems – lack of natural regeneration in our forests and thousands of dollars of crop damage on New York's farms.

Last year the total deer harvest was 280,760. Buck to doe ratios are far above the optimum 1 to 1.2. Some areas are experiencing ratios of 1 to 20. Under optimum conditions, in seven years, two deer can reproduce forty deer.

The former management strategy was to protect does, and encourage harvesting of bucks. That made sense

30 years ago when the state herd was small. However, "Bambi" has at least become a pest today, and at worst a menace to farm crops, forest regeneration, and sensitive areas as well as contributing to 70,000 vehicle accidents annually. The vehicle collisions alone add up to over \$120,000,000 in damages each year.

In 1999 the NYS DEC began the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP). It allows farmers and forest landowners to apply to DEC for permits to harvest antlerless deer on their properties. These permits are valid during any open deer season. Prior to issuing a permit, a DEC wildlife biologist will visit the land to assess the damage, and authorize the appropriate number of tags. Since 1999, 23,335 antlerless deer have been harvested on DMAP tags. In 2001, 21,972 tags were issued and the harvest was 11,198. The DMAP hunters have a success rate of 54%, more than twice the success rate on traditional deer management permits. Hunters are limited to two DMAP tags per year, plus any regular tags.

## In 2002 the following changes to the DMAP program included:

- lowering the required minimum forest acreage to 100 acres from 200 acres;
- requiring a Farm Service Agency (FSA) or tax map ID, instead of a paper map; and
- simplifying the applicant's summary report card.

## Future changes under consideration for the DMAP program are:

- continued simplification of the application process and conditions for use; and

- issuance of DMAP tags using the automated license system "DECALS."

Wildlife biologists at DEC continue to work at improving deer management in New York at the statewide level. Their efforts have:

- created another Quality Deer Management experimental area;
- encouraged the growth of the Venison Donation Coalition to help feed the hungry. Using the successful donation program in western New York, three Resource Conservation and Development Councils are working with DEC and the Regional Food Bank to develop a program for the 23 counties from Clinton to Westchester Counties;
- developed an automated license system "DECALS" where hunters will be issued licenses and deer management permits at the point of sale;
- created a toll free telephone for reporting harvest of deer, bear and turkey; and
- explored restructuring the seasons and possible alternative harvest strategies.

This means that you, as a forest owner or farmer with a woodlot, now have an improved management tool, DMAP, for controlling the deer population on your acres. The deadline for submitting the DMAP application is September 1, 2002. So contact your regional DEC wildlife office and take advantage of this program! 🌲

*Jill Cornell is a member of the CDC of NYFOA and president of the New York Woodland Stewards Inc.*

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# New York Society of American Foresters (NYSAF)

## Summer 2002 Meeting: *The Diversity of Forestry in Western New York*

The 2002 NYSAF summer meeting will be held in Western New York on August 19-21. The meeting will feature visits and discussions on three important innovative and unique situations of forestry in Erie County: urban forestry, county lands, and wood processing. The meeting is open to the public and these subjects should be of interest to NYFOA members. The topic of Urban Forests is an important policy item and Erie County currently faces many of the same pressures and issues that private forest landowners face.

At 1:00 p.m. on Monday afternoon, we will meet at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery and tour some of Buffalo's urban parks with Andy Rabb, City Forester. Tuesday, we will visit the Erie County forests in southern Erie County with Brian Grassia, County Forester. These will include an old growth northern hardwood forest, a white pine plantation with a hardwood understory, a maple syrup operation and a softwood plantation.

Erie County is starting to develop a comprehensive management plan for

these forests and has asked for advice from NYSAF. The day will end with a discussion on what NYSAF members think would be useful management directions, activities, and planning processes for the county to consider. This will be followed by a social hour, dinner, and brief update on legislative matters. Senator Pat McGee, Chair of the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources, will speak. Wednesday morning, following a business meeting and update on the SAF national convention in Buffalo for Fall 2003, we will visit the CanFibre plant in Lackawanna. This is a unique facility that manufactures MDF (medium density fiberboard) currently from recycled wood and sawmill residues. They are considering adding chips to their mix. This manufacturing plant provides a potential outlet for low-grade wood resulting from thinnings on private forestlands. The meeting will end at noon on Wednesday.

Meeting headquarters will be the Holiday Inn (716/649-0500) in Hamburg, NY. A block of rooms has been reserved at a conference rate of \$67.00 per night. People must make

their own reservations by July 30<sup>th</sup>. Refer to the Group Name of NY Foresters.

The \$75 registration fee includes lunch and dinner on Tuesday and continental breakfast on Wednesday (\$50 registration fee without dinner on Tuesday). Other meals are on your own. There are several restaurants near the Holiday Inn in Hamburg for dinner Monday evening.

The meeting has been awarded 5 Category I Certified Forester® Education credits for successful completion of the three days. You can register by contacting the Continuing Education Office at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (315/470-6891). ▲

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# Oh To Be A Logger

MITCH DICKERSON

Some time ago I read an article in one of the "Woods" magazines about an 83 year old man who was still working in the woods! The article prompted me to think of my friend whom I've known since 1957 who will be reaching the ripe old age, as a woods worker, of 86 in July 2002. I think that is remarkable to still be working in the woods, almost on a daily basis at that age – cutting his family's firewood and pulpwood sawlogs for the wood industry. He enjoys being in the out-of-doors and improving his land.

My friend is Norman Briggs of Jay, New York. Norm was raised and schooled on Long Island, receiving a degree in Civil Engineering from Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn (now Polytechnic University of N.Y.) in 1937. Norm had a tour of duty in the Navy during World War II on a Destroyer Escort in the North Atlantic. Before and after his navy career he worked for an engineering construction firm whereby he found his way to the Adirondacks when the old ski center on Marble Mountain was built in 1947 by his engineering firm. Norm says his most enjoyable career was as an engineer on construction jobs in the field. He had his own land surveying business in the Jay area from 1953 to 1980, and for the past 22 years since "retiring" Norm's third career has been as a logger.

Norm bought a piece of worn out glacial moraine outside the village of Jay while on a ski center job, and soon after started

planting white and red pine in 1951 on weekend return trips to Jay. In 1956 Norm's Certified Tree Farm became No. 58. The NY Tree Farm system started in 1956, the National Tree Farm system in 1951. Norm built a log home on the Sand Flats in 1952, taking up residence in it in 1953. (In July 1919 an army bomber (MB-1) with a crew of five set down on the 'sand flats' to determine their whereabouts after passing over Lake Champlain enroute to Cleveland according to their flight instructions. Having hit an unseen fence from the air, after a week's work to repair damages to the front section, the plane took off again).

Norm married Luella McComber of Lake Placid in 1960 and soon they had four daughters who were raised there and sent off to graduate from college. For many years Norm, Lou and the

girls operated a Sugar Bush producing over 300 gallons of syrup annually. Norm and Lou now have seven grandchildren. Why anyone raised in the City would settle in Jay, or any of the other "livable villages" in the Adirondacks, only those of us who have relocated here would know!

In May of 2001 I loaded a 20 inch diameter, 16 foot white pine log on a truck with other logs Norm had planted, grown and harvested. If you stop by to look up Norm on the Valley Road, a mile out from Ward Lumber Company, you may have to walk out in the woods to find him since there are not many days he stays in the house – unless he is working on his stamp collection he started in 1923. Or, you may find him in church! 🌲

*Mitch Dickerson is a member of the NAC of NYFOA and a retired forester.*



Norm Briggs still can be found on his woodlot. Included in this photo are Dave Drake (on the truck), Norm Briggs (middle) and Norm's neighbor and friend Lenwood Sherman.

# A World View of Forests

HENRY KERNAN

Interest in having a world-view of forests is increasing as connections between global climate and human welfare are perceived.

The most authoritative world-view comes from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, whose Forestry Department's report on the state of the world's forests comes out every other year. The latest is dated 2001. In it are 173 pages of interpretive prose, statistical tables and definitions. Following standard United Nations practice, the tables list 213 countries, of which seven have no forests. The rest range from three which have no more than 2,470 acres to the Russian Federation's over two billion acres. The general tone of the report is factual and cautiously approving of much that is under way in forestry and conservation; concerned but not panic.

Several words that often cause emotional confusion are carefully defined and used. For example, the term forest refers to land under a tree canopy cover of ten percent or more, of at least 1.5 acres whose trees are or will be at least 16.25 feet high. Those areas have many forest values but they are not forest. The definition does include stands of cork oak and plantations of rubber trees but not tree-shaded lands growing coffee and cacao. Fifty-six percent of the land so defined as forest is tropical and sub-tropical. The rest is boreal and temperate.

The report defines deforestation as the permanent or long-term conversion of forest land to a cover not defined as forest. Thus

removing timber and other forest products is not deforestation. Unless a factor more drastic than even clear-cutting intervenes, such as flooding, building, paving or permanent cultivation, re-growth of trees normally follows on land which has once grown them.

During each year of the 1990s an estimated 36 million acres were deforested, somewhat less than during the 1980s. Most of the deforestation continues to be in the tropics. Elsewhere forests are gaining in both area and biomass volume. Each year trees were converting 12.8 million acres of open land to forest.

Because deforestation is an observable and measurable act, the term often frames discussions of forest resources. Nevertheless of greater significance are the condition of the forests and their ability to provide productions and services, usually as measured by human values. Forest degradation describes the loss of such ability. The 2001 report defines the

term as change in forest structure or function sufficient to interfere with forest products and services. Changes are occurring in all forests and at all times. Identifying those that cause forest degradation rather than improvement lacks standards and definitions sufficient to be more than incomplete and tentative. The report therefore does not have estimates of the area and degree of forest degradation.

Instead the report estimates the forces that countervail degradation. They are planting, management, and protection. All three estimates are subject to question. For example, China claims over 100 million acres of forest plantation. Does that figure mean new and productive forest? Or plantings that may or may not have survived?

Likewise the Russian Federation states that 100 percent of its over two billion acres of forest is under management. Armenia and Bangladesh make the same assertion. But what do they really mean?

The report states that over one billion acres are legally protected from degradation. Yet the report has a chapter about illegal activities and corruption, much of which takes place on protected forest land.

The report has further chapters on the influence forests have upon climate, upon biodiversity, and their part in international dialogue.

The report is well worth the reading. Copies can be had by calling 800-274-4888 for FAO publications or by going to their web site at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org). ▲

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





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



Deadline for material is August 1, 2002.

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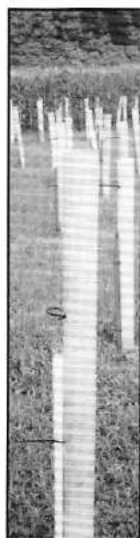
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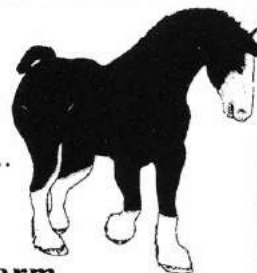
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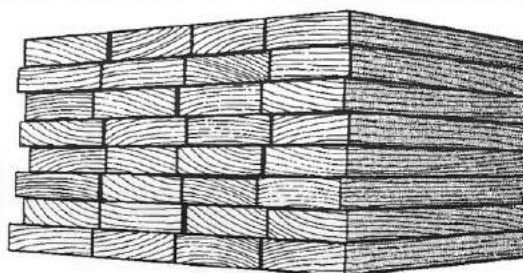
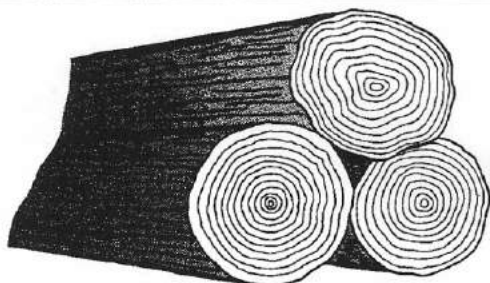
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