

The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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**THE NEW YORK
FOREST OWNERS
ASSOCIATION**

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**The New York
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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.

www.nyfoa.org

COVER: Members of the WFL chapter of NYFOA toured the Rattlesnake Hill Wildlife Management area. For details on their walk see page 14. Photograph courtesy of Lloyd Dieter.

From The President

For starters, I must thank Vice-President John Druke for his excellent column in this space in the last *Forest Owner*. Peggy and I were in New Zealand with nine other couples working on houses for Habitat for Humanity, and then we went on to see relatives in Australia.

New Zealand is a beautiful country, with lots of grass being marketed through sheep, cattle, and red deer farms for venison. And, lots of trees, many of which are Radiata pine, which grows fast, isn't fussy about soils, is more resistant to disease than many



other species, responds quickly to thinning, and has low shrinkage properties for lumber.

We had limited opportunities to explore the huge timber industry,

but at the visitor's center for a Fletcher Challenge demonstration forest, we saw two "cookies" (a cross section of a tree) that told an incredible story. They were very similar in size - each about 4.5 feet in diameter. They were both species that had been introduced to New Zealand — one, California Redwood, and the other Radiata Pine. Their ages were dramatically different — the redwood was 96 years old, the pine was 46 years old. New Zealand expects to be increasing and sustaining its total wood harvest.

The folks who work hard to bring us six excellent *Forest Owner* magazines each year would like your help. Forest landowners have a wide array of interests and motivations, and Mary Beth Malmsheimer, editor, and Joan Kappel, editorial committee chair, do their best to satisfy as many interests as possible.

You can help by letting them know subjects you find of most interest, areas you'd like to see covered more often, and other reactions you have. We can all thank Joan and Mary Beth for their continuing efforts by taking time to let them know of our comments, by sending along photographs, and suggesting writers or

sources that can be considered for publication.

Income tax on timber sales is admittedly complicated and has been the subject of articles in past *Forest Owner* issues. Recently I was reminded of the importance of keeping basic records. Briefly, if you've just sold timber, you'll be much happier at tax time if you've kept good books through the years. On the other hand, if you are looking forward to selling timber sometime in the future, now is probably a good time to begin some record keeping.

Timber sales, of course, produce taxable income. The important question is how much tax is due, keeping in mind that it is not improper to apply the rules to reduce the amount of tax to be paid. One is asking for trouble, however, if the income and the tax due is not reported. If you or your advisors need to know more, you might try the National Timber Tax website (www.timbertax.org) developed at Purdue University in cooperation with the Forest Service. It is a recognized source for timberland owners, as well as consulting foresters, accountants and others working in this field.

New York Woodland Stewards, Inc (NYFOA's charitable foundation) welcomes George (Geff) Yancey as its new president, following Jill Cornell's resignation in July. (See page 4). Geff is a member of NYFOA's Board of Directors, an active MFO in the Monroe and Wayne Counties area, and brings to NYWS a broad background in private business development and management. Thanks, Geff for taking on this added responsibility.

Mark your calendars for November 2, 2002. This year, our Lower Hudson Chapter is hosting NYFOA's fall meeting (see page 11), which starts at the Alice Desmond Fish Library in Garrison (southwestern Putnam County) and then moves to the field for woodlot visits. It is a beautiful time of year in the Hudson Valley and I hope many of you will plan to attend.

—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:

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NYFOA MEMBER NEWS

Jill Cornell Steps Down

On July 16, Jill Cornell stepped down as President and Director of New York Woodland Stewards, Inc. The NYWS Board reluctantly accepted her resignation, recognizing the unsurpassable energy she has put into the job.

NYFOA leadership had considered creation of a tax-exempt charitable organization (or a change in NYFOA's status) for several years, but action had not been taken.

While Jill served as President of NYFOA, the question again was raised, and her leadership and the help of many carried through to the creation of New York Woodland Stewards, Inc., in effect, NYFOA's foundation.

Jill recognized the long term importance to NYFOA's mission that could stem from an organization with charitable status. Tax-exempt charitable status means that 1) contributions can be tax deductible for individual donors, and 2) very importantly, the organization can be a recipient of grants from other foundations or government.

With Jill as its first president, NYWS has now passed through the required probationary period and the Internal Revenue Service recently granted NYWS permanent tax exempt status.

Jill's record of achievements with NYFOA and NYWS is outstanding, but her willingness to jump in when needed is perhaps her defining characteristic. As a member of the NYFOA Board of Directors, she was asked mid-term to fill in for an unexpected vacancy in the office of vice president. Later, again unexpectedly, she was asked to step up and assume the president's position and

responsibilities. And, she agreed to guide NYWS during its crucial formation years.

Jill's commitment and dedication have been an inspiration to many and her boundless energy will continue to be very evident with the Southeast Adirondack and Capital District Chapters, as well as her many other endeavors.

The New York Woodland Stewards Board extends this special thanks, as Jill completes her time as President.

Eric Rasmussen, Friend of the Forest

The Capital District Chapter of NYFOA has instituted a new award recognizing people who have made significant contributions to the forest resources of New York. NYFOA is a member organization with a mission of encouraging forest owners to become better stewards of their woodlands. The award has been created to increase awareness of people who have made an impact locally. Consequently Eric Rasmussen of Acra has been selected as

the first recipient of the Friend of the Forest award.

Eric has had a long involvement in forestry and conservation. He is a forestry graduate who has operated Lange's Grove Side Resort on Route 23 in Acra. Eric has hosted the Conservation Field Days for Greene County youth since 1970. In addition, he is serving or has served on the Soil and Water Conservation District Board (including Chairman of the Board), Greene County Cornell Cooperative Extension Board and the Region 4 New York Forest Practice Board. He has been a strong and consistent supporter of conservation and forest management.

His woodlot at Lange's is used by his guests to gain exposure to sustainable forest management. In 1999, Eric was elected New York Outstanding Tree Farmer, in part for his model management of his woodland and in part for his service to the forestry community and outreach efforts.

Over the years, he has hosted meetings at Lange's for the State Forest Practice Board, the New York Society of American Foresters, and the Capital District Chapter of NYFOA. He also regularly welcomes committee meetings of the Mohawk/Hudson Resource and Development Council and other groups working on conservation efforts.

It is for his dedication and tireless support of natural resource conservation that the Capital District Chapter of NYFOA selected Eric Rasmussen their first Friend of the Forest. 🌲

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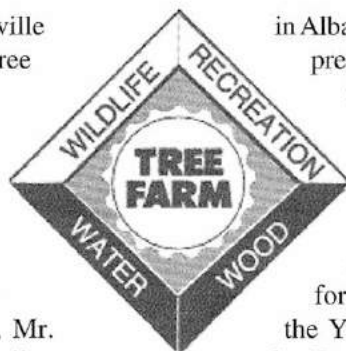
John Olney Named Tree Farmer of the Year

John Olney of Westernville has been recognized as Tree Farmer of the Year by New York State Tree Farm. A Tree Farmer since 1959, and long time member of THRIFT (Tug Hill Resources Investment for Tomorrow) and NYFOA, Mr. Olney has continued a family tradition of land stewardship.

The Olney Tree Farm has been in the family since 1860. Forestry activities are documented back to a softwood plantation from 1914 that converted an unused field to woodlands. For the past 45 years, John Olney has led his family in seeking out professional advise and using that knowledge to intensively manage the property.

Recommendations were followed on a timely basis, and the result has been the continuous production of high quality wood products while protecting water quality, wildlife habitat, and recreation opportunities. Timber harvests in excess of 300,000 board feet each have taken place on the 129 acre Olney Tree Farm every 20 years since 1939.

For their achievement, Mr. & Mrs. Olney were presented an award by DEC Commissioner Erin Crotty and New York Tree Farm Chair Michael Burns during the Arbor Day Ceremony at the Governor's Mansion



in Albany. They have also been presented with a Gift Pack from Stihl, nationwide sponsor of the Tree Farmer of the Year Contest.

Nominations are currently being accepted for the 2003 Tree Farmer of the Year. If you are, or know of a Tree Farmer doing outstanding work, please contact your inspecting forester to be nominated. For more information on having your woodlands certified as a Tree Farm, please call the Tree Farm Office at (800) 836-3566. 



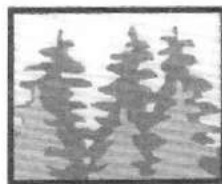
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NYFOA Scholarship Fund

As of August 1, 2002, the NYFOA Endowed Scholarship Fund that is administered by the SUNY ESF College Foundation, Inc. has a fund balance of \$17,692.08.

Learning to use an axe was one of the skills Boyd Monte had to teach some of his fellow soldiers.



Logging Off The Third Reich

MIKE MONTE

We live in a time when being a lumberjack, in some circles, is akin to being a criminal. While I won't get into all the horror stories about the radical environmental-

ists that plague the timber industry, I will say that whether or not the people who are preserving trees know it or not, they do need and depend on loggers. This story is about another time, when a

logger was needed and conscripted against his will. I would be a year older if the story hadn't happened, but happen it did.

My father, Richard "Boyd" Monte, was a child of the Great Depression, and like many of that generation, was faced with World War II when he was a youth. He served his country as a combat infantryman in Patton's Third Army as a member of the 80th Infantry Division. He would be embarrassed to be called a hero, but the men who answered their country's call in the '40s certainly fit everybody's definition of heroes. This, however, isn't really a war story, it's a lumberjack's tale.

Dad, along with some of his friends, was cutting logs for a guy named Keith Jesse, near Phelps, Wisconsin in the fall of 1941. The depression had abated somewhat, and the time spent in Jesse's logging camp was good, with regular pay and decent food. According to Dad, the tragedy at Pearl Harbor was two weeks old before word got into camp. All of the younger men knew that it was just a matter of time before they traded red plaid for khaki, and by spring, they were headed for physicals and basic training.



The "trophy" deer on the GI's shoulders was one of six that were culled from the German herd for fresh meat. The author's father, Boyd Monte, is standing on the far right.

My father was a lucky man for awhile. He was posted to an anti-aircraft unit on Washington State's Mercer Island. They manned four 90-millimeter guns and kept a sharp eye out for Japanese airplanes that nobody thought would ever materialize.

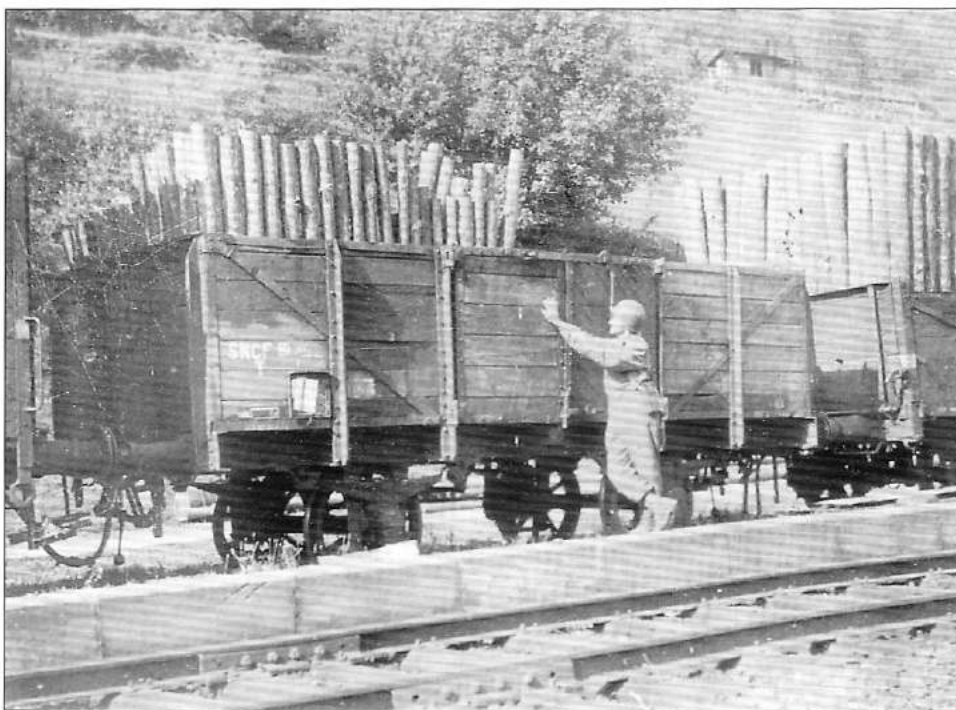
The mountains and woods of coastal Washington State were a great place to be for a lumberjack, and they even got to do some logging of sorts. The gun revetments were made of logs and dirt, and the trees were cut nearby, dragged to the gun site and peeled before being placed around the gun. Dad said axes were issued to men who had never held one before, and they were told to peel the logs. A grinning officer said that when you had the bark off three of the tree-length logs, you could take the rest of the day off.

At nine in the morning, the officer stopped the Wisconsin lumberjack and asked him where in the hell he was going. "My logs are peeled," answered Dad, and the amazed 2nd lieutenant watched him walk off.

The easy days ended when the Japanese took their fearful beating at the Battle of Midway, in the summer of '42. Any threat the Japs may have held for the West Coast went away with the four Japanese aircraft carriers that were sunk in the middle of the Pacific.

The Army, being a practical institution for the most part, had no use for artillerymen where no threat existed, but they were to have a strong need for an inexhaustible supply of infantry troops in the upcoming struggle with Hitler. So, from the green forests and rushing streams of Washington, the men who had trained hard to rapidly fire a 90-millimeter, were put on troop trains and hauled to Kansas for advanced infantry training. So much for the good life.

My father liked the M-1 rifle. He said it fit him like a glove, and he was an expert shot with the weapon. He hated machine guns, knew they were the favorite target of enemy soldiers, and said he made sure he never came close to a target when he fired one. He felt he could survive the war with an M-1 in his hand and enough loaded clips.



Mine timbers were often bought from the Germans. Both iron and coal were necessary to get the German economy back on its feet.

So, with his M-1 in hand, a full pack, and complete ignorance of warfare, he disembarked from a ship on the floating docks at Normandy Beach in September of 1944. The activity on the beach was amazing. Men and materiel was being moved efficiently and with great dispatch to the men at the front. The cemetery on top of the bluffs made a very sobering impression on him, with endless rows of crosses, and he realized that the real

estate he had just crossed was bought with a fearful price.

The next stop was a replacement depot. For days on end, troops sat and waited their turn to replace those who had fallen in battle. Eventually, he was picked from the crowd and sent to the 80th Division, a unit that had been originally formed from men in the Blue Ridge Mountains, hence the blue hills on the shoulder patch.

The 80th was in the Moselle Valley, heavily engaged in a disagreement with

continued on page 8

Susan J. Keister, L.L.C.

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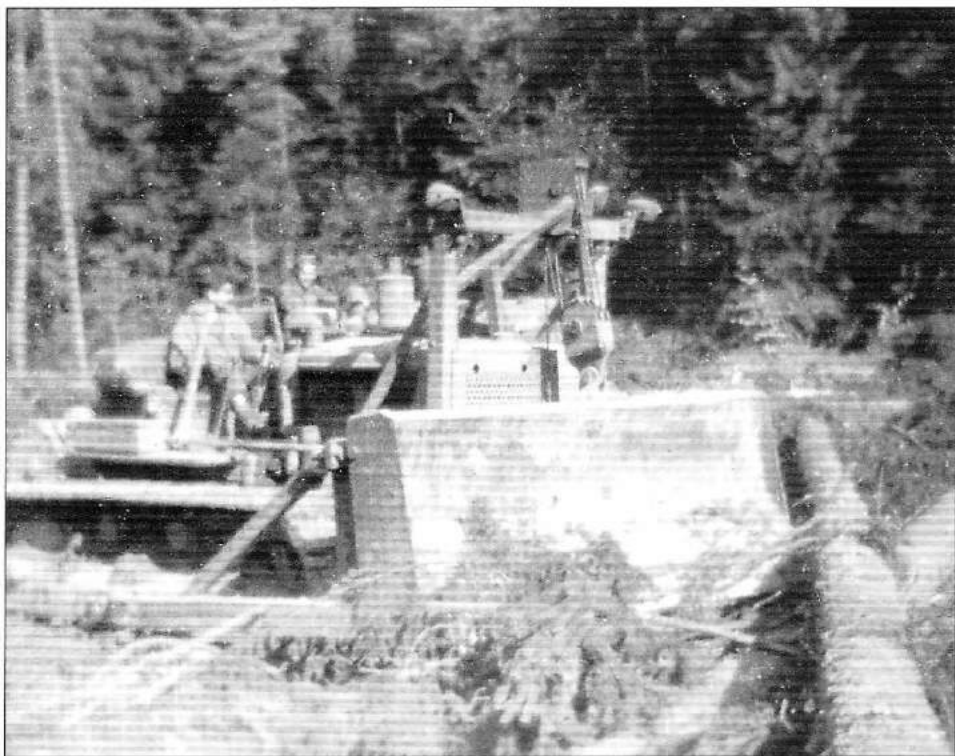
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Using a Cat D-8 to log near Rothenfels, Germany.

the Wehrmacht over who was to own the real estate. My father rode to the front on a load of 30-06 ammo. Sitting on top of the load with all his gear, he hung on to the bows that should have held the canvas covering, and bounced along. They stopped on the heights above the valley. The Germans were laying down an artillery barrage, walking the '88s across the landscape.

The truck driver stuck his head out of the window and said, "Hang on! When the barrage gets to the other side of the valley we're gonna floor it. When we get to that clump of trees by the barn down there, I'll slow down and you jump off."

While my father waited for the barrage

to walk across the valley, he watched as a truck and trailer pulled up the graves registration people started loading the corpses that littered the ground along the road. He said that he was scared as hell and wondered how a lumberjack had ever got into such a mess.

The barrage moved, the truck roared down the hill and Dad hung on. They reached the farmyard, the truck slowed, Dad jumped off and ran for a concrete barn. It was there that he met another lumberjack.

Leon Jenkins was a logger from West Burke, Vermont. He was 39 years old and didn't have to be on the front because of his age, but due to a scrape back home

and a judge who gave him a choice of the Army or another type of organized living, Leon was there. He told my dad that if he had to be in the Army, he wanted the full treatment.

Leon was a machine gunner, and he was having a tough time keeping a machine gun crew. They kept getting killed, and Leon said he had had enough. He was resigning from the war. Unfortunately, Captain Phillips wasn't going to allow it. Leon said he might stay if the Wisconsin lumberjack was put on his gun crew. Phillips said all right, and told Dad to join Leon's crew.

Dad protested that that he wasn't worth a damn with a machine gun, didn't even qualify at the range, and Phillips said that didn't make any damn difference out here. Dad claimed that Leon kept him from losing it in the weeks that followed. His wisecracks, Yankee manner and logger humor when things were bad gave him a boost. It is interesting to note that my father couldn't remember the name of one other man who served in that five-man crew, and there were many, as they kept getting killed. He said it was easier not to know their names.

Trench foot is when the feet are constantly kept immersed in cold water and mud, and as a result, the small capillaries plug with coagulated blood. Nerve damage follows, and if the condition isn't rectified, gangrene sets in and the foot, and possibly the lower leg, is amputated.

It was a common condition that fell in France, not afflicting everyone, but a great many. Dad, Leon, and the rest of the gun crew were put in a holding position on the bank of the Seille River. Patton's big push across France was stopped so that British General Montgomery could have the lion's share of the gasoline, food and other military stores.

Patton ranted and raved, but Eisenhower, trying to keep the British allies happy, said no. It was the wettest and coldest autumn in years, and men from the 80th Division, with scant food and inadequate footwear and no warm clothing settled into mud-filled holes. The Germans shot across the river and the GIs shot back, but nobody moved.

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Restore the American Chestnut

Presumably, the Germans were just as miserable and cold as the Americans, but both sides stayed and did their duty. After 30 days in this holding position, the tanks were gassed up, and the 3rd Army went back on the offensive, but a great many of the troops in that area, including Dad, could only shuffle into the attack on the Rhineland.

My father was pulled from the line in early November. His feet and ankles doubled in size when his Army oxfords and leggings were cut off by a doctor who was readying the 80th for the relief of Bastogne up in the Bulge. He was sent to a hospital in Nancy, France along with hundreds of other soldiers suffering from the same ailment.

It was November 14, 1944, and the last solid food he and his fellow soldiers had enjoyed was on the morning of November 6. An inadequate diet and lack of proper clothing had thinned the ranks more efficiently than the Nazi army. Dad had lost over 60 pounds in 54 days of combat.

Until that time, feet were routinely amputated, but a new doctor in the hospital tried something else. As soon as they were able, all the men in the ward were led in exercises that saved their feet—not everybody's, but most. The men held their legs in the air for a certain count, then they stood up, and then they lay down and repeated the process. Blood began to flow into plugged veins. Within days, the black gangrenous spots on Dad's legs and feet started to disappear. Walking, instead of shuffling, became possible, and most of the boys were sent to England for further recovery.

The weeks went by, and in the spring, the German Army was whipped. The U.S. Army was faced with thousands upon thousands of soldiers who were homesick, lonely for the fairer sex and anxious to get back to the U.S.A. Huge tent camps were set up near harbors and named after cigarettes. There was Camp Pall Mall, Camp Chesterfield, and Camp Lucky Strike, where Dad awaited his Liberty Ship.

The orders were handed out. You were told what pier to report to and what ship to load on. Everybody was given orders



Log landing on a planted timber job in Germany

except for one homesick Wisconsin lumberjack. Dad rushed over to the camp headquarters and asked for his orders. The officer in charge asked his name, Dad told him, and he said, "Oh yes, your orders are in the drawer. Here they are. You're going back to France."

"The hell I am!" he replied, and, of course, he was told, "Yes you are!" The officer asked if he had been a lumberjack before the war, and Dad said he had been. The officer replied that they really needed a lumberjack, and after searching the files, thousands of names, he was the only one available. After another trip across the English Channel, he put in another 21-day hospital stay in Dijon,

France. At Dijon, he enjoyed eating an American hamburger, the first in nearly a year.

Shortly, he was in Epernay, France, reporting to an officer in charge of an engineering outfit that was given the task of cutting timber and sawing lumber that was needed for bridges, housing the occupation forces and keeping their supplies out of the weather, as well as any of the thousands of other uses the Army had for boards. Mine timbers were also produced, as coal was needed to heat homes and barracks.

Dad said he was rude to that officer. He refused to salute and was surly. This officer, instead of standing on military

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Trucks were loaded by pushing the logs up skids with a crawler or pulling them with a winch.

protocol, seemed to understand the bitter thoughts my father entertained. He explained that he knew that Dad had done his part. The Combat Infantry Badge on his uniform was proof of that. He knew that it wasn't fair, but that he was really needed. His kindness received little response from the despondent PFC, so he said "get in the jeep, I'll show you what we're doing."

Dad described the quiet trip in the jeep out of the village to a hilltop overlooking a logging job. Caterpillar D-8 dozers equipped with winches were pulling pole length pine to a landing. As they watched, a 2nd lieutenant was running alongside a pole trying to get the attention of the Cat operator, who didn't know enough to look back.

The pole was bent between the stumps, and it was obvious that as soon as the end of the pole cleared the stump, the pole was going to whip straight, cutting the lieutenant in two. The end of the pole cleared the stump as the lieutenant fell down, the tree whipping harmlessly over his inert body. He stood up as the Cat skinner looked back. He jumped from the dozer to see if the officer was hurt. When he left the machine, another tree was felled over his empty seat.

It was a painful thing for a logger to watch. The officer said that these guys were from the New York City and New Jersey area, and had absolutely no experience harvesting timber. He asked what they should do next, and Dad said, "Tell them to stop. We're going to open a logging school."

In a short time, the men were well on their way to becoming loggers. They were clear-cutting planted pine over 100 feet tall, with crosscut saws, and the German forester in charge was almost insane at the terrible forestry practices. I would like to write that they honored his wishes and followed his cutting plan, but to the victors go the spoils, and that includes the timber.

They logged in several locations, leaving France for Wurzburg, Germany, where they became occupation troops. Some time was spent at Rothenfels, a small village on the Main River, another small village called Aschaffenburg, and

eventually Nuremberg.

They often worked with German prisoners and were also charged with guarding the prisoners. Dad found out that most of them had been drafted, like him, and were anxious to resume their former lives. Dad, and another man who served with him, Bob Tweedy of St. Cloud, Minnesota, both say the same thing. With the exception of most of the Waffen SS troops, the German soldier was much like an American GI. Most of the German soldiers hadn't wanted to go to war either.

Dad said he usually didn't bother carrying a firearm. Nobody was trying to escape. A prisoner was guaranteed three meals a day and a cot, and at that time, in Germany, food and a warm spot to lay your head was at a premium.

Dad said there was an exception. A prisoner spent hours hanging on the wire of the stockade, looking down on a small German village. With the German he had learned and the English picked up by the prisoners, he found out that this soldier had been on the eastern front. He had managed to get captured by the Americans, and not the Russians.

He hadn't been home for four years, and he hadn't received a letter from his family for two years. He was looking down at his home, and could see people in the yard and walking in the door. That was too much. Dad sent him home for the day with a promise to be back by dark.

As the sun went down, my father started to get nervous, so he drove down to the house just as the door opened and a former German soldier and his family stepped out with a basket filled with fresh bread, jam, and homemade wine. All for Sergeant Monte! (Dad had been promoted, and was no longer a lowly PFC). This prisoner was allowed to go home regularly.

This was the first time that my father experienced forestry. Back in Wisconsin, if a tree had a log in it, it was cut. In Germany, they had depleted their forest reserves a century earlier. Most of the timber cut by Dad and the other GIs had been planted, and some of those trees were nearly 100 years old back in 1945.

German foresters were aghast when a two-acre landing was pushed in with the dozers and whole sections of trees were cut and loaded on trucks. Some of these foresters were the third generation of their family to manage the stand. Their tears flowed, but the logging progressed according to schedule. Technically, it was still a war situation, and the rules, especially German rules, were suspended. In the years that followed World War II, my father, like everyone who was involved in the timber business, learned about sustainable logging.

Dad was in Nuremberg when he was finally allowed to go back to Wisconsin after 19 months overseas. During that extra year of duty he had seen a lot of Germany. He had hunted wild boar and those tiny deer they have in Europe. They drank a lot of wine and, contrary to every order, they fraternized with their former enemies, finding that they liked a good time, just like themselves, and much of the hate accumulated during the war drained away.

They also had the honor, as Dad put it, of cutting and sawing the timbers used in the gallows that were needed after the Nuremberg War Trials wound down. Though very homesick, I think Dad was glad to have put in the extra time, and I have to admit that I don't mind not being a year older.

Dad came back to his hometown of Argonne, Wisconsin and opened a garage. He worked on farm equipment at first, but switched over to logging machinery as the woods began to mechanize in the '60s. He always liked logging, and he enjoyed the loggers who hung around his garage after work. He knew that loggers aren't usually appreciated by the society they work hard to support, but he also knew that they can be real popular when in short supply!

By the way, Leon Jenkins, the Vermont logger, continued in the fight until the end of the war. He settled in California, was successful as a cabinetmaker, married, and corresponded with my father until his death. ▲

This article originally appeared in the March 2002 issue of The Northern Logger and is reprinted with their permission.

Woodlot Calendar

September 14, 2002 (Saturday)

Tour of Herman Pallet Mill

Did you ever wonder where the low grade material on your woodlot could be marketed? Pallet mills provide a forest owner with a viable option to make a profit with timber stand improvement cuttings. The owners will provide a tour and discuss the daily operations of their mill located in Marion, NY. Registration may be required. For further information contact Harry Dieter at (585) 533-2085

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 6, 2002 at 1:00 pm (Sunday)

Hi-Tor Wildlife Management Area Tour

NYSDEC Senior Wildlife Biologist Bruce Penrod will lead a tour of the unique Hi-Tor area in Naples, NY. Discussion will revolve around wildlife management activities on the property including a recent timber harvest. For more information contact Harry Dieter at (585) 533-2085

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. Mark your calendar! Sponsored by the Southern Finger Lakes Chapter.


November 2, 2002 (Saturday)

Fall NYFOA Meeting


The Lower Hudson Chapter has agreed to run the fall NYFOA meeting (a first for us). It is scheduled for 8:30 am on Saturday November 2nd in Garrison NY. We will have a morning gathering and welcome with coffee at the Alice Desmond H. Fish Library in Garrison at the corner of Routes 9D and 403. Parking may be limited out in the field. At 10:00 am we will be carpooling to a trail leading to the Garrison Union Free School Forest for a historical interpretation of the land use and the Revolutionary War history of the South Redoubt. Weather permitting, we will picnic there, then continue on via carpool to visit private woodlands under various ownerships: newly acquired, thirty years management, and multi-generational. We will wrap up at Anne Osborne's house, with tea, and return folks to their cars before dark.

For more information please contact Anne Osborn at (845)-424-3683.



NEWS & NOTES

 At the June meeting of NYFOA's Board of Directors, the Board supported serious exploration of having our 2003 annual program and meeting at the state fairgrounds in Syracuse at the same time as the New York Farm Show in late February. Several thousand people attend the exhibition and our Central NY Chapter has had a booth for several years which has

attracted a lot of interest. The Board felt that if this can be worked out, the programs and speakers assembled for our annual program would attract a broader audience from among folks visiting the show. Many attendees are farm and rurally oriented, and may appreciate the opportunity to receive forest management information.

 Next year, the Society of American Foresters is holding its national meeting in Buffalo on October 23-29, 2003, with the New York Chapter as host. NYFOA Director Hugh Canham, as chair elect of NYSAF, along with a number of other NYFOA friends, is actively involved in the planning. A role for NYFOA has

been suggested, but conference planning is still at an early stage.

 Recently the Boards of NYFOA and New York Woodland Stewards (NYWS) created a joint committee to review and recommend the best organizational structure for the two entities. NYWS was created in 1997 as a 501(c) 3 charitable organization. The intent at that time was to enhance our ability to seek tax deductible contributions, grants and other forms of support to further the stewardship mission of NYFOA. Comments are welcome and may be directed to Ron Pederson or Geff Yancey. 

Amending the New York Forest Tax Law Could Help Maintain the Forested Working Landscape

KEVIN BRAZILL AND RENÉ GERMAIN

The combination of “the building boom” of the last decade and historic shifts in forestland ownership patterns is threatening the long-term viability of private forests in this state. Of New York’s 18.6 million acres of forestland, 15.5 million acres are classified as timberland, with 14.4 million acres of that land owned by approximately 500,000 (and growing) nonindustrial private forestland (NIPF) owners (Birch 1996). NIPF owners supply 90% of the roundwood used by hundreds of New York State sawmills (Germain 1998). These landowners control the future of forestry in the region. Given the importance NIPFs to the state, the time is right for New York’s Forest Tax Law to play a more prominent role in maintaining the forested working landscape.

As urban areas expand and development sprawls into formerly rural areas, NIPF owners are profiting from the appreciation of real estate values by subdividing and selling their property. Over the past decade, forestland was the largest source of rural land converted to urban-developed uses in the nation; it accounted for more than one-third of the total land converted (USDA 1999). That is not to say, however, that all privately held forestland will soon be converted into residential or commercial use. But the trend toward smaller parcel sizes and therefore less available forest resources for timber-based industries (from milling to recreation) is evident. To be sure, the issue is not simply one of a growing human population developing greater expanses of forestland. Private forests in the United States have been fragmenting into smaller ownership

parcels for recent decades at rates well above those attributable to more people needing more space – about 1.6 times faster than population growth (DeCoster 1998). Across the country, an estimated 150 million acres of the productive timberlands will be held in pieces of 100 acres or smaller by 2010, and the average size of individual forest ownerships will be about 17 acres (Sampson and DeCoster 2000). Closer to home, recent studies in central and southeastern New York indicate that the average NIPF parcel is approaching 20 acres.

As one of the most heavily forested states in the Northeast, New York depends on its forests for timber, water quality, recreation, and aesthetics.

Aerial photographs of the state and satellite imagery depict a landmass rich in forests. Its appearance can lull resource managers and policymakers into believing that all is well with New York’s extensive working forests. We call this attitude “forest cover complacency” because on-the-ground inspection of those forestland ownership trends often presents a very different picture. A forest that appears as a seamless expanse of green from the vantage point of a car or an airplane could be owned by one person or dozens of different people with various goals and objectives. The extent of the state’s forestland may be a misleading indicator for the relative scarcity of the services provided by the



A typical rural landowner owner's property containing 25 acres with a mix of forests and old fields.

forests because a "no net loss" of timberland may mask substantial declines in services rendered (Wear 1999). Although much of the state lies beneath a canopy of trees, the availability of the forest resources for harvest, water quality, recreation, and management exclusively depends – in most cases – on the individual landowner's priorities and decision-making. The decisions made by the growing number of NIPF owners in the state, occupying smaller and smaller woodlots, have rippling effects on the health of the region's economy and ecology.

Among the drivers of parcelization are upwardly spiraling land values and high rates of taxation, both of which conspire to make economically viable forest management difficult to attain. A realistic tax incentive program could greatly help the cause. In its current form, §480-A of the New York State Real Property Tax Law is open to landowners holding at least 50 contiguous acres of forestland, the perceived "minimum commercially-viable acreage for timber production." Over time, the limits of "commercial viability" have changed as timber values, equipment capabilities, access to woodlots, and harvesting practices have changed. The parameters of the law, however, have not. Given the large percentage of NIPF parcels in New York under the 50-acre threshold, an amendment to the tax law may help these smaller forest parcels contribute to New York's forested working landscape, and perhaps slow the rate of parcelization.

Recently, the NYS Senate wisely amended the state's antiquated timber theft laws to meet the realities of current market conditions. We respectfully suggest they now turn their attention to revisiting the antiquated Forest Tax Law. ▲

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Kevin Brazill is a Forestry Program Specialist with the Watershed Agricultural Council and René Germain is Assistant Professor at SUNY-ESF.

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Managing A New York Conifer Plantation Rattlesnake Hill Wildlife Management Area

MARK KEISTER AND HARRY DIETER WITH PHOTOS BY LLOYD DIETER

Western Finger Lake chapter (WFL) members toured an in progress timber sale on Rattlesnake Hill to see reasons and results of a mechanical harvest of primarily red pine and Norway spruce. NYSDEC forester Mark Keister was the leader and informational specialist. The walk was hosted by Michael Kaminski Logging and NYSDEC.

Hundreds of thousands of acres of old fields were planted on government lands in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Most of these plantations are now between 40-65 years old. Unfortunately, after planting, little was ever done to care for these trees. Most were never thinned in western New York because there was no market for small diameter softwoods and no funds available to do pre-commercial thinning. Combine this with the reality that there was little knowledge of soil requirements of

different species of trees at that time and a formula of poor growth and overcrowding developed.

Members saw clear cuts of red pine which were removed due to poor health and slow growth. This will allow return of native hardwoods and allow a desirable even aged stand to develop. Aspen will likely be a component of the new stand of trees and this will benefit ruffed grouse. This was an important consideration since this harvest was on a wildlife management area.

The Norway spruce stands were thinned approximately two rows out of six to promote growth. The Norway spruce needed more thinning for best growth but heavier thinning was withheld because of possible wind blowdowns. Additional thinning is planned in 5-7 years when root systems have expanded and stabilized.

As part of the timber contract, approximately 4000 feet of access road



Photograph shows the thinning of a Norway Spruce plantation.



This is a new road constructed by a logger as part of the timber contract. This was originally a red pine forest prior to clearing.

were required to be built. Mark explained the requirements for the road including the use of geo-textile fabric to prevent sinking on the mostly clay soil. This road will be part of a loop hiking trail.

Due to the excessive wetness from heavy rains all spring, the mechanical harvesting equipment was not working during the walk. Mark had photo's of

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DEC Senior Forester, Mark Keister, explains mechanical de-limbing and cutting to length to attendees.

the various pieces of equipment used including feller-bunchers, grapple skidders, delimiters and cutoff saws and explained their functions. It is basically a one man operation with all mechanical handling. The larger diameter material is trucked to Canada and a mill in Alleghany County for sawn wood products. The smaller

pulpwood goes to Pennsylvania and Maryland. One of the unusual uses of the pulp is for postage stamps.

Thanks to Mark Keister and Mike Kaminski for this interesting and informational tour. ▲

Harry Dieter is a member of the WFL chapter of NYFOA. Mark Keister is a Senior Forester with the NYSDEC and a member of NYFOA.

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Beetles That Damage White Ash

DOUGLAS C. ALLEN

White ash is an important component of many forest types in the northeastern United States. Though it rarely occurs as the dominant species, ash adds to forest diversity and enhances the value of many of New York's northern hardwood stands. The straight, close-grained wood is light, strong and resistant to shock. Second growth trees are especially valuable, because they have a large amount of sapwood relative to heartwood. The lumber is valued for tool handles, cabinetry, molding and other types of dimension stock.

Most forest owners have heard of "ash dieback" or "ash yellows," a complex disease that has caused significant mortality of open-grown ash in the northeast. The symptoms of this disorder are easy to spot due to crown dieback, appearance of witches-brooms

(dense clumps of foliage as a result of excessive branching) and eventual tree death. The three insects discussed below do not kill the host nor does their activity result in obvious, easily recognized symptoms like those associated with ash yellows. Their cryptic habits are mainly why damage goes unnoticed until logs are processed for wood products.

Like most true bark beetles, the **eastern ash bark beetle** breeds in weakened, dying or recently felled trees. Adults are cylindrical, approximately 0.1 of an inch long and dark brown with a distinct pattern of whitish to gray scales on top of the wing covers (when a beetle is not flying, wing covers form the "back" of the insect).

Adults overwinter and emerge in May and June. At this time, the female seeks a severely stressed host

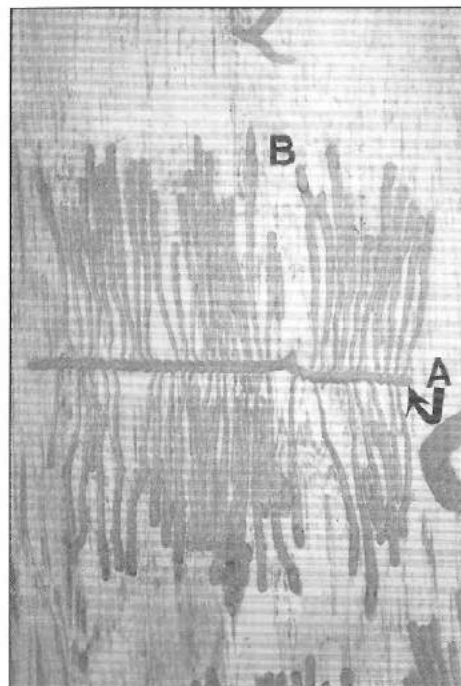


Figure 1. Gallery pattern characteristic of eastern ash bark beetle. The egg gallery (A) is 2.6" long. Larval galleries (B) are packed with frass.

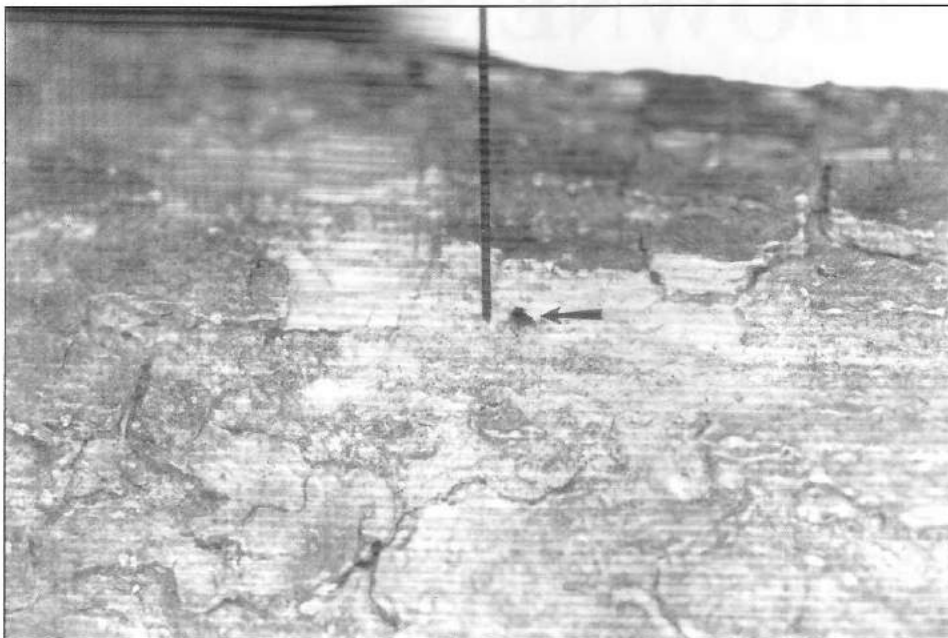


Figure 2. Entrance hole to overwintering gallery (dark spot near base of pin). The corky outer bark that concealed it has been removed.

or recently cut log where she chews through the bark and excavates an egg or brood gallery. This gallery appears as a wide, almost flattened, fork. It has two arms that are slightly curved and radiate from a small chamber. She deposits several eggs along both sides of this structure. When the eggs hatch, larvae create their own galleries as they feed. The gallery pattern is distinctly etched on the surface of the sapwood and in the inner bark; both arms of the egg gallery are always transverse (i.e., across the grain) and the larval galleries go with the grain, both above and below the egg-laying site (Fig. 1). This part of the life cycle does not damage or in any way decrease the value of lumber sawn



Figure 3. Exposed surface of sapwood showing two dark stains associated with ash bark beetle overwintering tunnels.

from infested logs or recent blow down. All evidence of the insect is eliminated with the slabs (the rounded sides of a log that are removed with the first cut made during processing).

The potential damage or degrade occurs when beetles emerge and prepare to overwinter by chewing through the bark of a living ash (Fig. 2) and excavating a small tunnel or overwintering niche. This tunnel often penetrates to the surface of the sapwood where it leaves a small stain (Fig. 3). When adults are abundant, the accumulation of these spots (which eventually will be overgrown and incorporated into the wood) may devalue lumber.

The **red-headed ash borer** and the **banded ash borer** belong to a family called roundheaded borers (a reference to the shape of the larva's head) or longhorned beetles (an allusion to the fact many adults in this group have long antennae). The adult red-headed ash borer (Fig. 4) is light brown, elongate, tapered slightly from front to rear and varies from 0.2 to .75 of an inch long. The "head" is broadly

rounded and distinctly reddish. Each wing cover is light to dark brown with four transverse yellow bands. The banded ash borer is equivalent in size but dark brown to black throughout. The first two yellow markings (i.e., those at the base of each wing cover) coalesce to form partial circles.

Both attack freshly cut (unseasoned) logs left in the woods or stored in a wood yard. Unlike the eastern ash bark beetle (and the larval stages of most other longhorned beetles), larvae of these two species feed beneath the bark for only a short time (Fig. 5). Soon after feeding begins they enter the sapwood where they live and feed throughout much of their lives. This is in contrast to most longhorned beetles that excavate galleries in the wood solely for overwintering purposes and must return periodically to the inner bark region to feed.

Larval feeding within the log eventually results in a myriad of galleries throughout the wood, most of which are tightly packed with frass (a mixture of wood fragments and excrement) (Figs. 6 & 7). This damage often results in the total loss of a log or log pile, because both will produce mostly defective lumber.

Management of all three insects requires, first of all, careful monitoring. In all three examples, damage is difficult to spot because there is little external evidence of activity. The entrance hole to the ash

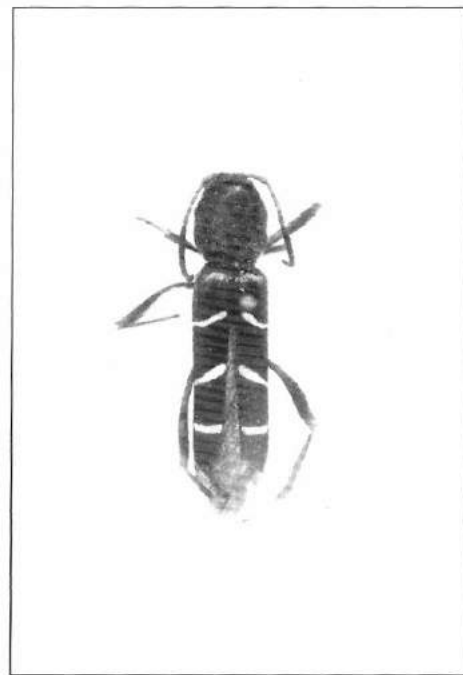


Figure 4. Adult red-headed ash borer (actual length is 0.4").

bark beetle's overwintering gallery is often hidden beneath a ridge of bark (Fig. 2). Activity by the two wood borers does not become evident until after the damage is done and circular emergence holes appear in the bark.

Eastern ash bark beetle. When a northern hardwood stand containing white or green ash is thinned, the ash tops, branches and defective logs should be reduced to as small a size as is feasible to encourage rapid drying. The ash bark beetle breeds only in

continued on page 18

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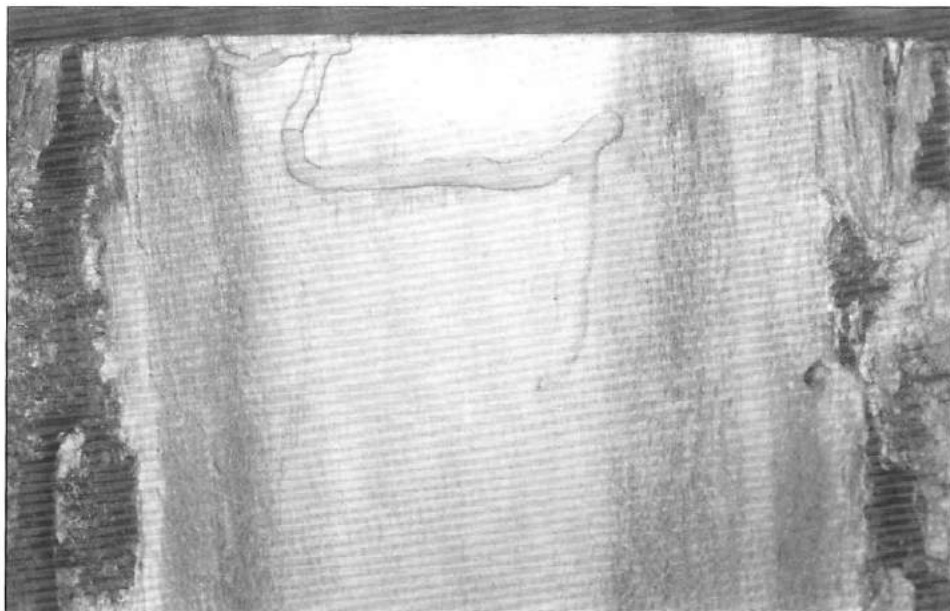


Figure 5. Early feeding by red-headed ash borer engraved on the surface of the sapwood (horizontal gallery is approximately 0.1 inches wide).

fresh, moist bark. Heavy infestations are evidenced by numerous circular emergence holes approximately 0.04 of an inch (1 mm) in diameter in bark of ash slash (logging residue) or by a large number of similar sized holes in standing trees made by adults preparing to overwinter. If buyers in your region are concerned about spotty

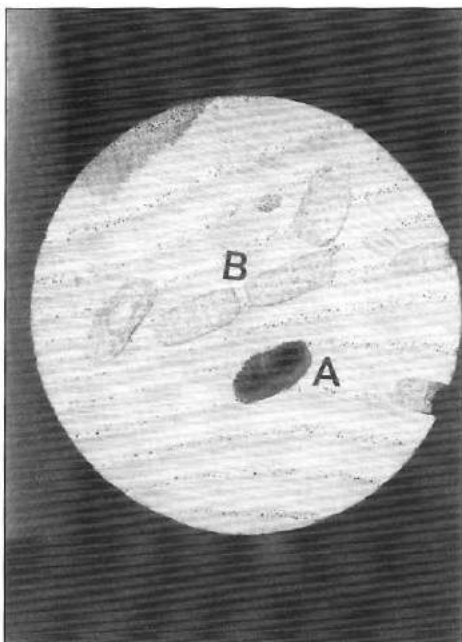


Figure 6. A piece of ash dimension stock (2.0" diam.) damaged by the red-headed ash borer. One gallery (A) is clean, the others (B) are packed with frass.

lumber, ash that has been used extensively for overwintering should be harvested within five or ten years. This is necessary to be reasonably certain the affected sapwood (i.e., peppered with numerous small stains) is removed in slabs and is not incorporated into that part of the tree bole that will produce lumber.

Ash borers. The most effective way to prevent damage by these longhorned beetles is to utilize logs within a few weeks of harvesting or to harvest and utilize logs sometime between fall and late winter. When it is necessary to maintain an inventory for extended periods during the growing season, continuously spraying logs with water will discourage attack. This will not be totally effective when log piles are large, however, because the beetles favor shaded or hidden areas that may be impossible to reach with this type of treatment. If a mill is able to debark logs, this will prevent the problem completely. ▲

This is the 64th 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/dl/privland/forprot/health/nyfo/index.html>.

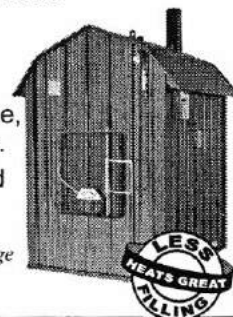
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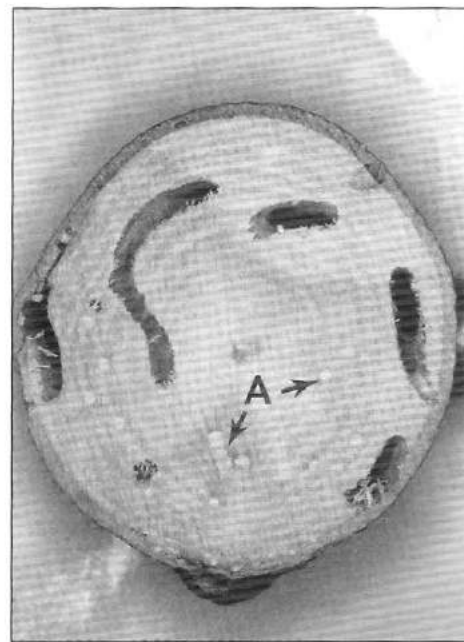


Figure 7. Ash (3.6" diam.) riddled with frass-packed (A) and clean red-headed ash borer galleries.

The FLTC Tax Report

News from the Forest Landowners Tax Council

The following, from the Forest Landowners Tax Council, is an update on current federal tax events and legislation affecting non-industrial private forest landowners.

The Death Tax and IRC Section 631(b): To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the U.S. House of Representatives has passed the Tax Relief Guarantee Act of 2002 (H.R. 586) to make permanent the tax reductions enacted by the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 (H.R. 8) and to protect taxpayers and ensure accountability of the Internal Revenue Service. This bill's provisions for permanency included language to over-ride the 2001-passed, phase-out of the death tax in order to make it permanent (You may recall that last year's H.R. 8 is only a 10-year phase-out of the death tax, which will return in full force in the eleventh year). Interestingly, and subsequent to their H.R. 586-vote, the House also passed H.R. 2143, which does exactly the same thing – it makes the repeal of the death tax permanent. We think our Congressmen are serious about immediate and permanent elimination of this 55% penalty for dying! In addition, FLTC was pleased that, when H.R. 586 passed, it included the stipulations of the Timber Tax Simplification Act of 2001 (H.R. 1341), which modifies Internal Revenue Code Section 631(b) to allow capital gains treatment on income from lump-sum timber sales for most non-industrial, private forest landowners.

Your delegates to the U.S. House should be congratulated. However, our struggle continues on the Senate side. Recently, many individuals helped recruit U.S. Senate votes to pass the Gramm / Kyl Amendment to make the death tax permanent. However, the

measure failed to get the 60 votes need for passage and Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD) says that no other tax legislation will be considered on the Senate floor this year. But, FLTC would certainly like to see the matter readdressed after October 1 this year when it will only take 51 votes to pass, because of the Senate's rules on budgetary considerations.

Finally, FLTC asks readers to contact Senators who serve on the Finance Committee and ask them to co-sponsor S. 567, the Timber Tax Simplification Act of 2002 (it's the same bill as H.R. 1341 mentioned above, which allows capital gains treatment on lump-sum sales). We are particularly interested in co-sponsorship by Senators Max Baucus (D-MT), John Breaux (D-LA), Bob Graham (D-FL), Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), Don Nickles (R-OK), Frank Murkowski (R-AK), Phil Gramm (R-TX), Fred Thompson (R-TN), and Olympia Snowe (R-ME). Senator Trent Lott (R-MS) is already a co-sponsor. To help you can call the Senate switchboard (202-224-3121) or visit "<http://congress.org>" for contact information for your Senators. To learn more about S. 567, call FLTC at 703-549-0747 or go to "www.fltc.org" and click the 'Hot Issue' button. ▲

The Forest Landowners Tax Council is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to providing an effective and unified voice for non-industrial, private forest landowners on federal tax issues. Membership is open nationwide. Visit their website at www.FLTC.org, or contact them at e-mail: Director.FLTC.org, tel: 703-549-0747, fax: 703-549-1579.

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Developing a Woodlot Stewardship Management Plan

PETER J. SMALLIDGE

The planning that you do for your woodlot or forest is not a difficult process and provides numerous benefits for woodlot owners. If you have planned a vacation or planned a wedding, then you are capable of the planning necessary to get the most from your woodlot.

The planning process will involve some thinking on your part, discussions with your spouse, children, or co-owners, collection of resource materials, and working with a forester for technical and professional assistance. These are easy but necessary steps; the good news is that much of this can be accomplished for free or with minimal expense. The expenses you do incur may be tax deductible depending on your situation and will be offset by gains in the efficiency of management and the benefits you receive from your property.

The starting point for a management plan is for you to identify your ownership objectives. These objectives describe what you want to get from your property, either the material goods such as timber or the opportunity for experiences such as privacy, recreation, or hunting. Maybe all these and more. A good starting point is to ask yourself a few questions: Why do you own the property? What do you like? What do you dislike? What do you need (or want) in 5, 10, or 20 years? When you discuss the answers to these questions with your spouse or others, you will be able to identify what you want to accomplish. A forester can help you evaluate your objectives and whether they are compatible with the resources on your property.

A plan for your woodlot provides benefits that are aesthetic, economic and logistical in nature. A plan allows landowners to integrate seemingly complicated objectives such as timber harvesting, habitat enhancement for specific wildlife species, and recreational trails. Planning ensures that management activities move towards and include the landowner's objectives and provide the optimal variety of desired benefits. For landowners who seek IRS recognition as

an active participant or proof of the intention of an activity, a management plan can document the role of the landowner in the management process or the intent of certain activities. Examples include fencing to exclude deer from regenerating areas, and thus allow the landowner to enjoy certain tax provisions not otherwise possible.

A typical management plan has four sections. The first section is a statement of the landowner objectives. It's important that these are the objectives of the landowner and not the objectives of the forester helping the landowner. The second section describes the property. This would include: a legal property description; an assessment of the condition of the different areas or management units for timber, wildlife, recreation, or other uses; characterizations of the soils, especially any limitations of use such as poorly drained or stony soils. The third section would be a work plan or calendar of scheduled events. You'll likely want a fairly detailed plan for the current and next year, but then more general targets for the following 5 and 10 year time frame. Each year you can check the tasks completed and revise the current year plan. Part of the schedule might include the tools, equipment, or resources you'll need to complete some task. The fourth and final section is an appendix that includes any number of things from maps, to historic records, aerial photographs, old pictures, list of trees or birds seen on the property, etc.

You have likely recognized that the planning process will be easiest with some outside assistance. Fortunately, there are numerous tools, people, and organizations you can access. One useful tool is a computer software program called "NED" that is available for free from the US Forest Service web site www.fs.fed.us/ne/burlington or by phone at (802) 951 - 6771. NED helps you visualize the relationship among your objectives. Another tool is the Cornell Cooperative Extension bulletin, "Wildlife and Timber from Private Lands: A landowner's guide to planning," available

through your local county extension office as #147-IB-193. People who can help include a corps of trained forest owning volunteers, the Master Forest Owners, who you can reach through your local Cooperative Extension office or at the MFO web site <http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/mfo>. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has a program called "public service foresters" who will visit your property and prepare a stewardship management plan with you free of charge. Also, you can contact a consulting forester or an industrial forester for assistance with a plan, though they may charge a fee or expect some future relationship for their services.

These web sites and others for maps, aerial photos, and web-based private landowner resources are provided as links from the Cornell University Forestry Extension web page www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/forestrypage.

Once you have your plan, use it to your full advantage. Use the schedule of activities to plan the yearly events, perhaps when children are home for the summer or in-laws come to visit. Use the description of the different management units to think about places to put hiking trails, picnic areas, or potential bird watching locations. Take the advice of your carefully chosen forester to help you evaluate offers from someone who shows up at your door and wants to buy your timber – if your plan doesn't call for a timber sale then you're likely better off to let the offer pass.

A management plan is a useful tool that will serve you for years to come. It's a critical starting point for the long-term stewardship of your wooded acreage. Additional details are available in the Cornell Cooperative Extension bulletin #147-IB-193. For more assistance contact the nearest DEC or CCE office. ▲

Peter J. Smallidge is the State Extension Forester at Cornell University and Cornell Cooperative Extension, Department of Natural Resources. He is also a member of the SFL chapter of NYFOA.

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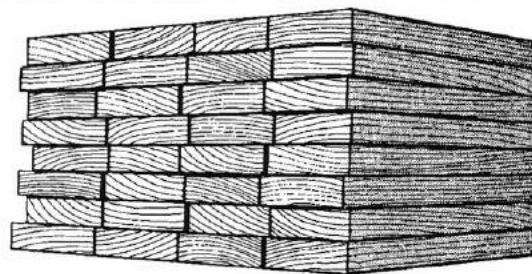
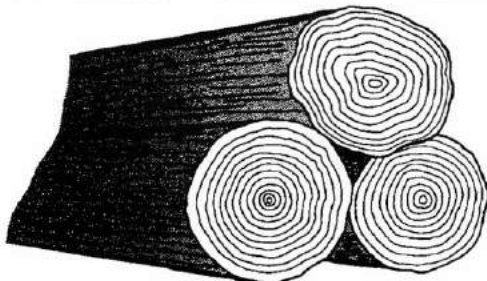
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