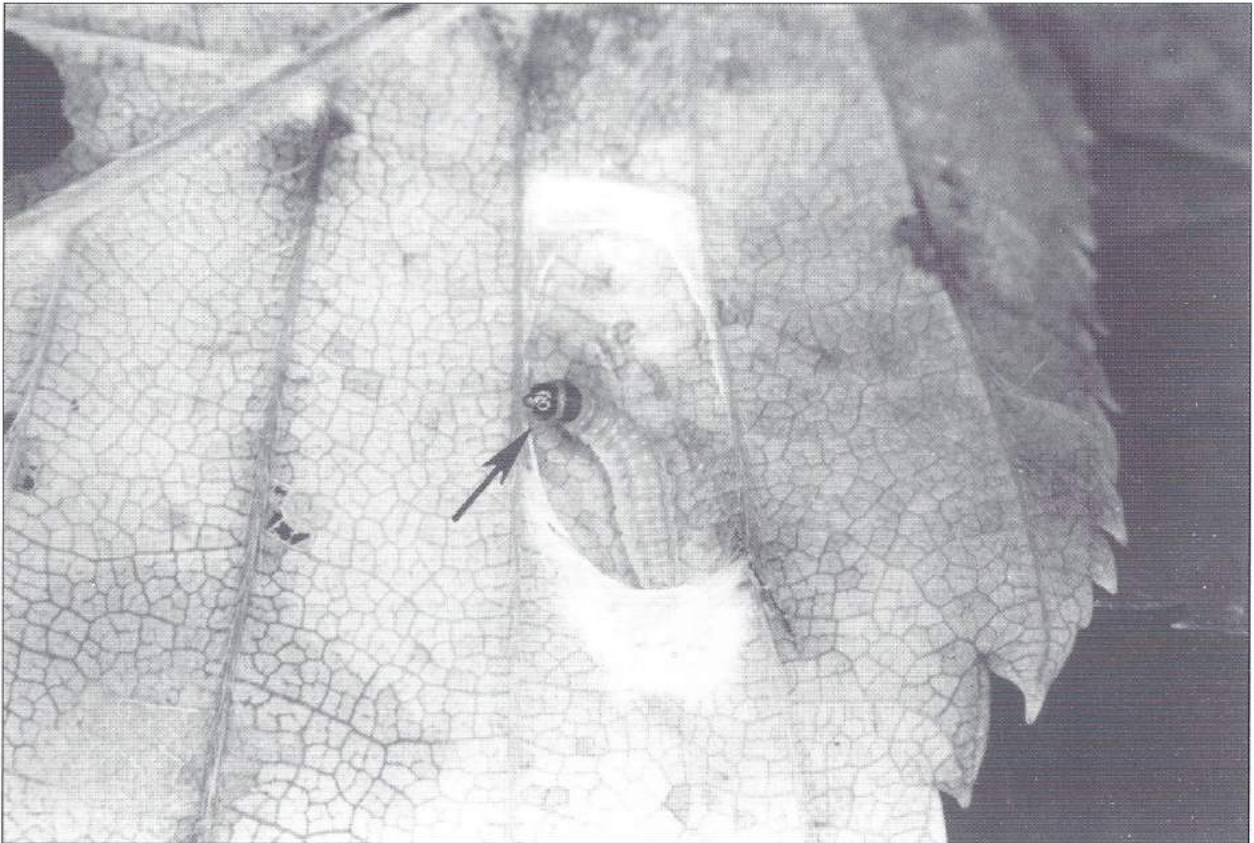


The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

November/December 2002



Volume 40 Number 6



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**THE NEW YORK
FOREST OWNERS
ASSOCIATION**

Volume 40, Number 6

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

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The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

The New York Forest Owner is a bi-monthly publication of The New York Forest Owners Association, P.O. Box 1055, Penfield, N.Y. 14526. Materials submitted for publication should be sent to: Mary Beth Malmshemer, Editor, The New York Forest Owner, 134 Lincklaen Street, Cazenovia, New York 13035. Materials may also be e-mailed to mmalmshe@syr.edu. Articles, artwork and photos are invited and if requested, are returned after use. The deadline for submission for the January/February issue is December 1, 2002.

Please address all membership fees and change of address requests to P.O. Box 1055, Penfield, N.Y. 14526. 1-800-836-3566. Cost of family membership/subscription is \$30.

www.nyfoa.org

COVER: A mature yellow birch leaf folder caterpillar inside its cocoon. For details and full article on this species see page 16. Photograph courtesy of Douglas Allen.

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From The President

"These landowners control the future of forestry in the region." Did you notice that sentence in the last issue of the *Forest Owner*? Or, maybe you could identify with this statement: "Although much of the state lies beneath a canopy of trees, the availability of forest resources for harvest, water quality, recreation and management exclusively depends — in most cases — on the individual landowner's priorities and decision making."

Authors Kevin Brazill and René Germain were not writing about the forest products companies as owners of about



seven percent of all timberland in NY, nor were they writing about the State and local governments who own another seven or so percent. They

wrote about taxation policy and non-industrial private forest owners — folks like you and me, who, in the aggregate, own about 86% of the timberlands in New York. As a small forest owner, I usually don't think of myself as being part of a very large majority. Do you?

I suspect that very few New Yorkers, and the many visitors that pass through our beautiful state, ever stop to consider that virtually all the scenery, wildlife habitat, and open space that characterizes much of New York is privately owned — a mosaic of hundreds of thousands of individually owned properties.

"These landowners control the future of forestry in the region." While I agree with that statement, it makes me a bit uneasy, because frankly, I don't know what it portends.

Personally, I feel privileged to be responsible for a small slice of that future, and I'm confident that most of the readers of this column probably feel the same. We take pride in trying to do our best to help Mother Nature along, and, to stay out of her way. We get a huge personal satisfaction from our efforts, while attending to

our larger obligation as stewards of natural resources. But I am also uneasy, and "...individual landowner's priorities and decision making" underlies that uneasiness. Daily we learn of situations that seem to demonstrate that an owner has not considered priorities, whether personal or societal, has not made the effort to become informed, or seek advice and help from natural resource experts.

Certainly we need more enlightened public policy as Brazill and Germain pointed out. We also need large measures of personal responsibility. Ideally, all landowners would be guided by an inherent obligation to be informed before making decisions, and to guard against simply letting others make decisions for them. Individuals need their own priorities, and while their hopes and plans will vary widely, all have an obligation to factor into their plans the future of natural resources.

*

As I draft this column, DEC has called a meeting of the State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee to get started on pulling together priorities and plans for the Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) provisions of the 2002 Farm Bill. FLEP replaces the earlier Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP), but in general terms, the programs are quite similar. FLEP programming will encompass cost sharing for approved practices on non-industrial private forestland, as well as technical services and education/outreach.

The Committee is advisory to the State Forester as he prepares NY's priority plan for implementing FLEP. Committee members represent a variety of federal resource management agencies, Cornell Cooperative Extension, consulting foresters, environmental groups, Forest Practice Boards, as well as individual private forest landowners. I have been asked to serve on the Committee, and I am aware of at least two other individual landowners who will participate. More will be known about the details of FLEP when the federal guidelines are published.

—Ron Pedersen
President

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

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

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

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

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www.nyfoa.org

NYFOA SPRING MEETING

NYFOA Spring Membership Meeting 2003

NYFOA will hold its annual spring membership meeting in conjunction with the New York Farm Show at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse, NY.


The 18th annual farm show will be held on February 20-22, 2003.

During the show NYFOA, the Department of Environmental Conservation and Cornell Cooperative Extension will co-sponsor an educational public information booth and daily workshops.

NYFOA's annual membership and awards presentations will commence at 1pm Saturday, February 22 in the arts and home building. A silent auction will take place on Saturday as well.

All farm show attendees and NYFOA members are invited to attend the workshops, which will be presented in the DEC log cabin at the fairgrounds.

We hope this program will give all NYFOA members an opportunity to view the extensive farm show exhibits, attend workshops, and participate in the annual spring meeting.

This is a preliminary announcement for the meeting and more details and registration forms will be included in the January/February issue of the *Forest Owner*. 

Attention All Members of NYFOA

We are looking for suggestions for outstanding candidates for the 2003 Heiburg Memorial Award and the 2003 NYFOA Outstanding Service Award. These individuals should be someone who has contributed both time and outstanding expertise for the benefit of our NYFOA membership.

The deadline for submissions is January 18, 2003. Please call or e-mail any of the Awards Committee members listed below:

Jim Beil 518-355-4471 jabeil@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Jill Cornell 518-753-4336 pinetree@global2000.net

Harry Dieter 716-533-2085 or haditer@frontiernet.net

Charlie Mowatt 716-676-3617 or U.S Mail

Jack Ward 315-265-0902 or pjward@northnet.org

Bob Sand, Chair 607-594-2130 rsand@stny.rr.com

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Woods and Wildlife

Many landowners would like to better understand how forest practices affect wildlife. While landowners recognize that the habitat range of wildlife species they'd like to favor or discourage typically extends far beyond their property boundary, they want to consider wildlife as they decide on forest management scenarios.

A partnership effort is now underway to further explain the effects of various silvicultural practices on game and non-game wildlife. The aim is to provide practical information for foresters, loggers and landowners to help promote sustainable forestry practices that take into account wildlife.

Eighty sample areas in New York were studied over a three-year period

by Audubon New York. The data from this field research is now being compiled and analyzed under the guidance of a technical committee chaired by Dr. Ross Whaley, ESF past president.

A partnership advisory group, in which NYFOA is participating, will work with the technical committee's report in developing educational and outreach materials early next year. Other members of the partnership include Cornell Cooperative Extension, Department of Environmental Conservation, Empire State Forest Products Association, Farm Bureau, NY Institute of Consulting Foresters, New York Society of American Foresters, the Northeastern Loggers Association, as well as Audubon NY. ▲



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NYFOA Scholarship Fund

As of October 1, 2002, the NYFOA Endowed Scholarship Fund that is administered by the SUNY ESF College Foundation, Inc. has a fund balance of \$19,668.44

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Cooperating Forester Program

New York State Department of Conservation

The Cooperating Forester program sponsored by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is designed to encourage landowners to work with private foresters in managing their woodlots. It is hoped that the increasing contact between landowners and professional foresters will promote the use of established management standards on most of the forest land in New York State.

Since the results of forest management decisions can be both long lasting and hard to reverse, it is important to make these decisions carefully and intelligently. Few landowners feel confident in making long range or large scale land management decisions, but the cost of hiring a private forester keeps them from seeking professional advice. In many cases, however, the professional assistance a landowner receives will pay for itself by increasing financial returns and other benefits from the woodlot.

Department of Environmental Conservation Foresters can give expert assistance and advice, but they do not have the time to give extensive personal service. Private foresters, on the other hand, can provide as much individual service as is needed and can perform any follow up service work that the landowner may desire.

Therefore to encourage good forestry practices, management planning and avoid damage from poorly planned cutting practices, a cooperative program between DEC qualified consultant and industrial foresters has been established.

Provisions of the Cooperating Forester Program

DEC has agreed to:

- Print and distribute a directory of Cooperating Foresters to the public and forest landowners.

- Encourage landowners to use the advice and services of Cooperating Foresters in the management of their woodlands.
- Promote cooperation and communication between Cooperating Foresters and DEC foresters.
- Make available to Cooperating Foresters, scientific information on various aspects of forestry.
- Report on accomplishments and evaluate the effectiveness of this cooperative program.

Cooperating Foresters have agreed to:

- Promote science based silviculture and forest management on referred properties to attain landowner objectives and goals.
- Adhere to the NYS Timber Harvesting Guidelines and the SAF Code of Ethics.
- Acquire continuing forestry education.
- Report forestry accomplishments to DEC and participate in annual meetings with DEC.

Cooperating Forester Affiliations

Many of the Cooperating Foresters listed in this directory have affiliated themselves with several professional organizations. A short description of each is provided and those foresters who are members are so designated in the directory.

SAF CF - Society of American Foresters Certified Forester

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) established the Certified Forester program to recognize, serve and support forestry professionals. The Certified Forester program is voluntary, nongovernmental and open to qualified SAF members and nonmembers. A Certified Forester agrees to abide by current program

requirements and procedures established for certification, to maintain continuing professional development and to conduct all forestry practices in a responsible, professional manner consistent with state and federal regulations governing environmental quality and forest management practices. Further information on the Certified Forester program is available on the SAF website, www.safnet.org.

NYICF - New York Institute of Consulting Foresters

The NYICF is an organization of professional consulting foresters in New York State. The Institute was founded in 1978 to provide continuing education to its members, interface with the Department of Environmental Conservation on behalf of all consulting foresters in New York and offer an outreach program to the forest owners in the state. Further information about the Institute is available at its website, www.berk.com/~NYICF/.

NYACF - New York Association of Consulting Foresters

The Association of Consulting Foresters is organized into state or multi-state chapters located in most forested regions of the U.S. ACF members operate in corporations, partnerships and sole proprietorships. Objectives of the Association include: protection of the public welfare and property in the practice of forestry, raising the professional standards and work of ACF and other consulting foresters, develop and expand the services of ACF consultants to the public and to serve as a forum for exchange of information. Further information about the ACF is available at its website, www.acf-foresters.com.

Selecting a Cooperating Forester

Choose a Cooperating Forester who understands your personal needs and with whom you feel comfortable. Determine a forester's qualifications by requesting information from the forester and references from several clients. Obtain this information, as well as cost estimates, from several foresters before choosing one to work with. The knowledge and experience of foresters vary widely. There are no legal standards governing foresters in New York State. However, the Society of American Foresters has membership criteria, including professional forestry education or technical expertise and a code of ethics. Members are ethically bound to inform you of any possible conflicts of interest.

A forester's fees may be based on the amount of time required to perform the work contracted, the acreage of woodland involved or based upon a proportion of the revenue from the sale of stumpage. Additionally, an industrial forester may agree to perform certain services in return for a purchase commitment or option for any forest products that may be put up for sale from the property.

After you have selected a forester, you may want to sign a contract or written agreement. This should include a list of services to be performed, and who will perform them. For example, if boundaries are to be marked, who will search the records for property descriptions? If a management plan is to be developed, to what standards will it be written? If timber is to be sold will it be by competitive bid, negotiated bid, or contract logging? How often will the forester check during harvesting to assure the job is done correctly?

Foresters provide landowners professional services for a fee or in exchange for a commitment of timber harvested from a property. Often the forester provides benefits and income that far exceed those fees. To best meet individual goals, it is important that the landowner exercises care in selecting a forester. Time spent

reviewing qualifications and references can assure satisfaction.

Services available from Cooperating Foresters

Many Cooperating Foresters are in a position to provide a wide array of forestry services to their clientele, while others may concentrate their efforts or specialize in certain areas. Landowners discussing their needs with a cooperating forester should specify those services required and ascertain if the forester offers those services desired.

The following is a partial list of activities and assistance that cooperating foresters might offer as client services:

Forest Management Planning

- 480a Forest Tax Law Plans
- Forest Stewardship Plans
- Integrated Resource Planning

Property Management

- Boundary Line Maintenance
- Christmas Tree Management
- Timber Sale Preparation and Administration
- Recreational Leases

Silviculture and Forest Regeneration

- Stand Analysis and Prescriptions
- Tree Planting
- Growth and Regeneration Surveys

Environmental Services

- Assessment and Impact Studies
- Erosion Control
- Urban and Community Forestry

- Watershed Management

Litigation

- Arbitration of Timber Disputes
- Expert Witness Testimony

Inventories and Appraisals

- Damage Appraisals
- Habitat Inventories
- Timber Inventory
- Timber Theft Appraisals

Economics and Taxation

- Capital Gains
- Estate Planning
- Feasibility Studies
- Income Tax-Form T

Utilization Investigations

- Forest products Marketing
- Logging Engineering
- Timber Harvest Plans
- Utilization Studies
- Resource Analysis

Other Services

- Computer Mapping
- GIS Services
- Photogrammetry
- Timber Theft Prevention

There are two different types of Cooperating Foresters to choose from

Cooperating Consulting Foresters
A consultant forester is a specialist who provides professional forestry services to landowners including private, industrial, commercial and public entities under contract on a fee or contingency basis. A consultant forester

continued on page 8

Susan J. Keister, L.L.C.

Forestry Consulting and Environmental Management Services

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Services Include:

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- SIP
- 480a

Commercial Timber Harvests

- High Quality Hardwoods
- Low Grade Hardwoods
- Softwoods

Federal Wetlands Delineations

- Permit Applications

Timber Stand Improvement

- Marking
- Implementation

Damage Appraisals

- Strategy and advice
- Stump Cruises
- Valuations

Land Clearing/Development

General permit and environmental management advice including wetlands, mining, local timber harvesting and special use permits.

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susanjkeister@usadatanet.net

uses his/her professional skills and abilities in the field of forestry and natural science in managing a landowner's forest to further landowner ownership objectives. A Cooperating Consultant Forester is an individual who has entered into an agreement with DEC and voluntarily agreed to follow the provisions of the Cooperating Forester Program policy including maintaining continuing educational and ethical standards set forth in the program. A Cooperating Consultant Forester has a bachelors or higher degree in forest management or associated discipline and professional level experience in forestry. You may download the list of Cooperating Consultant Foresters from the NYSDEC website at www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dlf/privland/privassist/consulting.html or contact your local DEC office.

Cooperating Industrial Foresters

An industrial forester is an individual who may work for a forest industry or may purchase timber, or have an association with an economic interest in a timber purchasing or procurement entity. Industrial foresters may charge a fee for their service or provide those services in return for a commitment in regard to any timber harvested on a landowner's property. A Cooperating Industrial Forester is an individual who has entered into an agreement with DEC and voluntarily agreed to follow the provisions of the Cooperating Forester Program policy including maintaining continuing educational and ethical standards set forth in the program. A Cooperating Industrial Forester has a

bachelors or higher degree in forest management or associated discipline and professional level experience in forestry. You may download the list of Cooperating Industrial Foresters from the NYSDEC website at www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dlf/privland/privassist/industrial.html

Contacting Cooperating Foresters

There are two options available for contacting Cooperating Foresters. You can call them directly or you can request that the NYSDEC add your name, address and phone number to their list of landowners who are looking for a consultant. This list is open to all Cooperating Foresters. If you request to be added to this list, you might be contacted directly by Cooperating Foresters. To be added to the list please contact your local NYS DEC office.

Division of Lands and Forests Directory

Lands and Forests Region 1 *Suffolk and Nassau counties* SUNY Campus Loop Road, Building 40, Stony Brook, NY 11790-2356 (631) 444-0270

Lands and Forests Region 2 *Manhattan, Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island* 1 Hunters Point Plaza, 47-40 21st Street, Long Island City, NY 11101-5407 (718) 482-4942

Lands and Forests Region 3 *Sullivan, Ulster, Orange, Dutchess, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester counties* Regional Office - New Paltz, 21 South Putt Corners Road, New Paltz, NY 12561-1696 (845) 256-3000

Region 3 - Wappingers Falls Sub-Office Stony Kill Environmental Education Center, Route 9D, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590 (845) 831-8780

Lands and Forests Region 4 *Montgomery, Otsego, Delaware, Schoharie, Schenectady, Albany, Greene, Rensselaer and Columbia*

counties Regional Office - Schenectady 1150 Wescott Road, Schenectady, NY 12306-2014 (518) 357-2066

Region 4 - Stamford Sub-Office Route 10, Stamford, NY 12167-9503 (607) 652-7365

Lands and Forests Region 5 *Franklin, Clinton, Essex, Hamilton, Warren, Fulton, Saratoga and Washington counties* Regional Office - Ray Brook, P.O. Box 296, Route 86, Ray Brook, NY 12977-1200 (518) 897-1200

Region 5 - Warrensburg Sub-Office Upper Hudson Street Extension, P.O. Box 220, Warrensburg, NY 12885-0220 (518) 623-1200

Region 5 - Northville Sub-Office Main Street Extension, P.O. Box 1316, Northville, NY 12134-0458 (518) 863-4545

Lands and Forests Region 6 *Jefferson, St. Lawrence, Lewis, Oneida and Herkimer counties* Regional Office - Watertown, State Office Building, Watertown, NY 13601-3787 (315) 785-2236

Region 6 - Potsdam Sub-Office 6739 US Highway 11, Potsdam, NY 13676 (315) 265-3090

Region 6 - Lowville Sub-Office RD #3, Box 22A, Route 812, Lowville, NY 13367 (315) 376-3521

Region 6 - Herkimer Sub-Office 225 North Main Street, Herkimer, NY 13350-0089 (315) 866-6330

Lands and Forests Region 7 *Oswego, Cayuga, Onondaga, Madison, Tompkins, Cortland, Chenango, Tioga and Broome counties*

Region 7 - Cortland Sub-Office 1285 Fisher Avenue, Cortland, NY 13045-1090 (607) 753-3095

Region 7 - Sherburne Sub-Office 2715 State Highway 80, Sherburne, NY 13460 (607) 674-4036

Region 7 - Kirkwood Sub-Office 1679 NY Route 11, Kirkwood, NY 13795-9772 (607) 775-2545

Lands and Forests Region 8 *Orleans, Monroe, Wayne, Genesee, Livingston, Ontario, Yates, Seneca, Steuben, Schuyler and Chemung counties*


Region 8 - Bath Sub-Office 7291 Coon Road, Bath, NY 14810 (607) 776-2165

Region 8 - Avon Sub-Office 6274 East Avon-Lima Road, Avon, NY 14414 (716) 226-2466

Lands and Forests Region 9 *Niagara, Erie, Wyoming, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany counties* Regional Office - Olean 128 South Street, Olean, NY 14760-3632 (716) 372-0645

Region 9 - Falconer Sub-Office 215 South Work St., Falconer, NY 14733-1497 (716) 665-6111

Region 9 - Belmont Sub-Office 5425 County Route 48, Belmont, NY 14813-9758 (716)-268-5392

Region 9 - Buffalo Sub-Office 270 Michigan Ave. Buffalo, NY 14203-2999 (716) 851-7000 

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HOW TO: *Maintain Forest Roads*

STEVE WILENT

Like changing the oil in your car or painting your house, maintaining forest roads keeps things running smoothly and prevents expensive repairs.

"Most road maintenance problems are caused by water. Foresters and landowners minimize these problems by using water diversion devices—water turn-outs, water bars, broad-based dips," says Richard W. Brinker, dean of Auburn University's School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences.

Brinker has written a publication titled "Forest Road Maintenance for Forest Landowners" for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (see www.pfmt.org/roads).

"These structures need periodic maintenance," says Brinker. "The outflows need to be kept clean, and you have to maintain a shallow enough grade so that they're not causing an increase in the velocity of water leaving the road."

How much maintenance is needed? And when should it be done? Doug St. John, a licensed professional engineer in Washington State who has worked as a forest engineer for Champion Pacific Timberlands, says that all depends on the road and its purpose.

"If you're going to be using it right away, that road is going to require more active maintenance than one that you're not going to be using for 10 years or that is going to get very light use," says St. John. "This is important from a cost standpoint—you don't want to spend money on maintenance that you don't need to do. Of course, the reverse is true—for a road that is getting heavy traffic, you need to take the appropriate actions so that it is economical to maintain and serves its purpose well and so that you minimize the environmental impacts of the road." Both Brinker and St. John recommend

asking yourself one key question before doing any maintenance: Is the road in the right place?

"It's an often-overlooked question. I've seen people put a lot of money into expensive repairs on a road that's in the wrong place—and the location is what's causing a lot of the problem," says St. John. "You may be better off moving the road rather than investing a lot of maintenance dollars in it."

This is particularly true on roads that are chronically wet, where rock must frequently be added or some other repairs made more often than usual. "Most people make the decision to add rock based on whether the trucks or other traffic get stuck," says St. John.

Even with a road that is in the right place, waiting for a problem to occur invites more trouble.

"If you wait until the last minute, chances are that you're going to have to remove some of that mud and muck before you put the new rock down," says St. John. "Otherwise, the new rock will be contaminated, and you'll be throwing good money after bad."

Clean, uncontaminated rock spreads the weight of vehicles over softer soils, preventing them from sinking. Once crushed rock or aggregate is mixed with silt or clay, the smaller particles act as a lubricant, and the layer of rock loses its ability to support vehicles.

Typical crushed rock consists of particles three-quarters of an inch to two inches in size, but larger particles are sometimes used. In dry regions, relatively thin layers of smaller-size rock mixed with clay help keep the road surface in place by binding the rock particles together to prevent them from blowing or wearing away. Blends of gravel, sand, silt, or clay may be used, depending on conditions. In wetter areas, where silts or clay would lead to slippery conditions or an

unstable surface, thicker layers of clean, larger-size rock provide better drainage."

Alternatives to Crushed Rock

Wood chips, from stumps or logging debris ground on-site, can help firm up a surface on some light-duty, single-use roads. Likewise, geotextiles can help stabilize a road surface.

"Geotextiles can be very cost effective and save you quite a bit of rock, especially in wet areas where the soil is 'pumping' or being pushed into

continued on page 10

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the rock," says St. John. "Geotextiles form a barrier that prevents that pumping action."

Grass is another alternative for light-duty road surfaces. "We encourage the use of grass that is mowed once per year," says Brinker. "That provides not only erosion protection for the road but also offers some wildlife habitat."


Foresters and landowners also need to consider maintaining the vegetation on either side of the road, says Brinker. Trees growing right up to a road's edge block sunlight and wind and thus delay the drying of a road after a rain.

Brinker says prevention is often the best medicine. "Try to have some sort of traffic control when the road surface is wet," says Brinker. "If you have a gate to keep people off of your road during wet times, that minimizes a lot of future erosion problems."

Routine monitoring, he says, will pay dividends.

"It's a good idea to get out of your truck and walk your roads during or right after a rain storm to see where the water is going. Observe the flows and check your water diversion devices to make sure they are working," says Brinker. "Many times a little work with

a shovel can eliminate problems that you'll need a bulldozer to correct in two months."

"It's a lot less expensive to improve a road before you use it," says St. John, "than to try to improve it while you're using it." 

This article originally appeared in the September 2002 issue of "The Forestry Source" a publication of the Society of American Foresters. It is reprinted with their permission.



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Woodlot Calendar

November 13, 2002 — *Wednesday*

Oil and Gas Leasing

Robert Emerling, owner of Emerald Oil Co. operates 44 oil wells on 8 leases covering approximately 900 acres and is in his 8th year of business. He plans to discuss many aspects of leasing including: history of oil and gas in NYS; lease negotiations - what to look for; how wells are drilled; and performance expectations - what to expect from operators and your lease. This is an opportunity to educate yourself if you have a current lease, own property with lease potential, or just want to learn more about the subject. Discussion will be at 7:30 pm at the Monroe County Cooperative Extension Building at 249 Highland Ave., Rochester, NY. Free and open to the public. Come and bring a friend. For more info contact Keith Maynard at 585-586-5538.

November 13, 2002 — *Wednesday*

Landowner Assistance

Chip McElwee from the Soil & Water Conservation District and Greg Currier from the Natural Resource Conservation District will present an overview of their many programs supporting the private forest owner. Included are: technical assistance with erosion control,

best management practices for logging and road and trail building, the Wetlands Reserve Program, the Conservation Reserve Program, and various other US Department of Agriculture support programs. The program will be held at the Broome County Cornell Cooperative Extension building in Binghamton, NY. The CCE building is just 200 yards North from Exit 5, Interstate 81. Doors open at 6:30 pm, program begins at 7:00 pm. Refreshments served.


February 22, 2003 — *Saturday*

NYFOA Spring Meeting

NYFOA will hold its 2003 spring meeting in conjunction with the New York Farm Show at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse, NY. The 18th annual farm show will be held on February 20-22, 2003. During the show NYFOA, the Department of Environmental Conservation and Cornell Cooperative Extension will co-sponsor an educational public information booth and daily workshops. The membership and awards presentations will commence at 1pm Saturday, February 22 in the arts and home building. A silent auction will take place on Saturday as well. More details and registration forms will be included in the January/February issue of the *Forest Owner*.

NEWS & NOTES

NYFOA Booth Awarded Ribbon


 The SE Adirondack chapter of NYFOA introduced their new NYFOA booth at the Saratoga County Fair this summer. The booth featured a backdrop of five 4' x 6' panels with 18 different commercial species of finely finished random width boards over a knotty pine paneled base.

The booth was a combination of materials from NYFOA, MFO, Tree Farm and DEC. It included special display items, lots of free literature, a wood collection quiz and super chapter volunteers to answer questions about our forests.

The backdrop of the booth was a collective effort of donations of lumber

and labor, from CCE Director Bill Schwert and staff, Gregg Mackey, Peter Gregory and John Hastings. It received many, many favorable comments and resulted in a Purple Ribbon for the best display in the Conservation Department.

Nature Conservancy Partners with NYS to Protect 44,650 Acres


 The Nature Conservancy of New York announced a landmark deal to preserve 44,650 acres of forest lands in the Tug Hill Plateau in Lewis County, approximately 30 miles north of Syracuse, marking the largest land acquisition that the Conservancy has negotiated in the state of New York. The Conservancy, with the help of New York State, will buy the property for \$9.1 million from Hancock Timber, a private timber investment company that has owned the land since 1996.

This purchase, bringing together New York State, The Nature Conservancy and a private timber investor, protects one of the largest and most important forested landscapes in the state. It will conserve

critical natural resources and wildlife habitat, creating new outdoor recreational opportunities and supporting northern New York's forest products economy.

The property, known as the "East Branch of Fish Creek Site," is the largest privately-owned parcel on the Tug Hill Plateau, the westernmost extension of the Northern Forest, which stretches from New York to Maine. It includes intact spruce and northern hardwood forests, extensive wetlands and the headwaters of three major river systems: Fish Creek, the Salmon River and the Mad River.

Under terms of the agreement, long-term ownership and management of the property will be shared by New York State, The Nature Conservancy and GMO Renewable Resources of Boston, a private timber company.

The purchase will create a variety of public recreational uses on the property, including hiking, camping, canoeing, hunting and fishing, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. 

Fish in Ponds and Lakes: Good Management Choices

CLIFFORD KRAFT

Let's say that you just moved to a large place in the country that has an attractive pond. You've finished getting settled, and the kids or grandkids have started to ask about fishing in that pond. Of course, you recall the real estate ads that you saw while you searched for your new rural home, each of which proclaimed, "Great Pond for Fishing!" So now you want to enjoy some of that good fishing.

When you first walk along the shoreline you see dozens of frogs leaping into the water (they remember those kids), some "weeds" and hundreds of small fish nibbling at the surface. The kids keep telling you that they've seen some "really big ones," but you begin to wonder. One evening, you catch a dozen or so small sunfish, then give up. This isn't what you had in mind. Afterwards, you remember the conversation that you had with the previous owners, who mentioned that the pond didn't contain any fish worth catching.

So what can you do to make this a "Great Pond for Fishing?"

Raising fish in New York ponds cannot be done using a "cookbook," due to the varying environmental conditions found throughout the state. Many different types of ponds are found on private property. You will also learn that any dream of finding a pond that will provide good fishing, for many years, at a low cost, and with little management effort is unrealistic. But if you are willing to experiment a bit and can accept the challenge of managing your own aquatic ecosystem, you can satisfy your goal of successfully raising fish in a private pond. But first, you will have to determine a few things about your pond ecosystem.

Habitat

From a fish's perspective, habitat includes all of the physical and chemical features of their aquatic environment. Habitat also includes some biological components. For

example, to a fish, aquatic plants provide physical structures that define the habitat they occupy. It's important to focus on a few key habitat elements.

Temperature

The most fundamental habitat characteristic that determines what type of fish can live in a particular New York pond is temperature. Most ponds can be categorized as either coldwater ponds (water temperatures seldom exceed 74°) or warmwater ponds (water temperatures regularly exceed 74°). This distinction is made largely to identify whether ponds can sustain various trout species. If they can, they are considered to be coldwater ponds, if not, they are generally considered to be warmwater ponds.

Water temperature is determined both by the water source and geographical location of the pond. Potential water sources for a pond include surface runoff, streams, springs, and wells. Cold water temperatures in New York ponds are usually maintained by groundwater inputs from underground springs. Groundwater usually maintains much colder temperatures during the summer than surface water sources – such as runoff and streams – which are heated by the sun's radiation and warm summer air. Warmwater ponds are usually isolated from groundwater sources, and are found throughout the state. Only a few locations at high elevations in the Adirondacks and Catskills are cool enough during the summer such that cold water temperatures are maintained without groundwater inputs.



Typical pond on forest landowner's property.

Depth

Ponds are usually constructed with depths between 6 and 8 feet, and with a maximum depth not greater than 10 to 12 feet. Natural ponds can be found with a wide variety of depths. An average depth of less than 6 feet greatly increases the probability of aquatic vegetation becoming established in the pond, and depths greater than 12 feet are not necessary for good fish production. Steep pond slopes help prevent the growth of nuisance aquatic vegetation, which can also become an important feature of the pond habitat. Vegetation isn't necessarily bad for fish production. In fact, in many inland lakes vegetation provides important nursery and feeding habitat, but a pond choked full of vegetation seldom provides good fish habitat.

Water Quality

Phosphorus and nitrogen are familiar nutrients that we use to fertilize gardens and house plants. These nutrients also enrich the growth of

aquatic vegetation such as algae and rooted pond vegetation, thereby controlling pond productivity. Most New York ponds have enough available nutrients to support fish production, and a more common problem is the presence of excessive nutrient levels. Watershed land uses influence nutrient levels and water quality. Runoff from cropland can increase the amount of sediment reaching the pond and may cause excessive turbidity. Runoff may also contain potentially toxic agricultural chemicals, and runoff from pastures and livestock holding areas is rich in nutrients from animal wastes. Residential, urban, and industrial runoff may contain substances (such as chemicals, oils, and sediment from construction activities) that can adversely affect a pond's water quality.

Oxygen levels are another important aspect of pond water quality. High nutrient levels that produce algae blooms eventually result in decaying vegetation that use up available dissolved oxygen. Fish kills often

result from a lack of oxygen or, under extreme circumstances, the presence of toxic algae. During hot weather most ponds have a layer of water near the bottom that contains little or no dissolved oxygen. When high winds or cold rain cause this water to mix with the upper pond water, oxygen levels often drop to levels that can kill fish.

Spawning Habitat

With rare exceptions, trout will not reproduce in farm ponds. This is because most ponds lack suitable spawning habitat, which for trout consists of a gravel area through which groundwater flows during winter months. Groundwater provides over-wintering eggs with fresh oxygen-rich water and keeps them from being smothered by silt deposits.

Sunfish seldom suffer from a failure to reproduce. Instead, they have the opposite problem in farm ponds—overpopulation. Sunfish spawn in late spring over nests that are swept clean

continued on page 14



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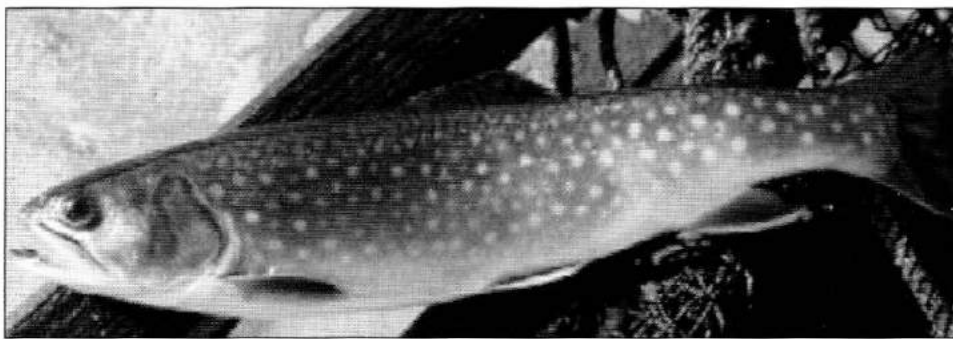
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Brook Trout

of silt and guarded by adults. These fish can reproduce in warm shallow areas to such an extent that they outstrip the pond's ability to produce enough food to sustain steady growth, resulting in a population of "stunted" fish.

Fish Suitable for Farm Ponds

Trout

Various kinds of trout have been tested in central New York farm ponds, including brook, brown and rainbow trout, as well as various trout hybrids (such as brook-brown and brook-lake crosses). All of them survive equally well in farm ponds, with the possible exception of the brook-lake hybrids. Trout survival through the summer months is often the greatest challenge, due to their inability to tolerate warmer temperatures. Trout stocked as 2-inch spring fingerlings have a lower survival rate than fish stocked as 5½-inch fall fingerlings. Larger fish have higher survival rates, but these fish are also more expensive to purchase.

Rainbow trout are the most popular trout for pond stocking, and brook trout are also recommended. Brown trout are less popular because they are more difficult to catch, and therefore provide poor fishing. Older brown trout also prey heavily on fingerlings introduced for re-stocking.

It is reasonable to stock trout at a density of 600 fish per acre, but this number can be adjusted up or down according to pond habitat conditions, such as depth and water quality. Initially, it is probably best to stock a smaller density of fish; then adjust

future stocking rates upward if you are satisfied with the results of your initial stocking experiment. One trick to being a successful pond manager is to be willing to experiment with various stocking regimes to determine what works best in your situation.

Trout can be stocked in ponds without other fish, where they will feed upon aquatic insects and other small pond crustaceans. If large trout are stocked in ponds with minnows, these forage fish will provide an additional boost to trout growth rates. It is unusual to find trout surviving into their third year after being stocked into a farm pond, so it is reasonable to harvest these fish within a year or two after stocking.

Bass and Bluegills

Adult largemouth bass are predators upon smaller fish, which means that

they must be stocked in a pond that contains forage fish. Largemouth bass are popular for angling, because they put up a real battle when caught by hook and line. Farm ponds in the southern U.S. are frequently stocked with combinations of largemouth bass and bluegill sunfish, since the bluegill reproduce easily and small bluegill provide food for the larger bass. Hybrid sunfish are now sometimes used in place of bluegill. These hybrid fish are a cross between two different sunfish species, usually a bluegill and a green sunfish. Hybrid sunfish spawn less prolifically than bluegill because most of these fish are males.

Good initial stocking rates for bass and bluegill would be around 500 sunfish and 100 bass per acre. Again, these stocking rates may be adjusted as you become more familiar with your pond conditions.

Another alternative is to stock golden shiners or fathead minnows as forage for largemouth bass. In such ponds the shiners or minnows will likely disappear after several years due to predation by the bass. Though this can be an expensive alternative, good bass growth rates can be sustained by continuing to stock abundant forage fish in ponds where your goal is to produce largemouth bass for angling.

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Determining Balance

When is a fish population in balance? How can I determine if a balanced condition exists in my pond? These are two questions often asked by pond owners. Actually, a truly balanced condition never exists in a pond, or the balanced condition might be one that does not produce satisfactory fish for purposes of recreation. Fish populations continually change and never reach the state of equilibrium, or general stability, often referred to as balance. Fisheries biologists sometimes use the term to describe satisfactory relationships between the predator and prey populations in a pond, in which case they are usually identifying three factors as being present:

- (1) Fish of harvestable size;
- (2) Annual reproduction;
- (3) A combination of fishes, including at least one predator species.

However, achieving all three factors is not easy to attain in many farm ponds. Figuring out what's possible in your pond will require a flair for experimentation, good observation, and some patience.

Good initial steps are:

- Survey the physical structure of your pond (surface area and depth profile);
- Measure pond water temperatures at a variety of depths through all seasons;
- Identify likely sources of water and nutrient inputs;
- Find out what types of fish currently live in the pond.

Based on these initial observations, you can then proceed to stock New York ponds with either trout or a bass-forage fish combination. From this point onward, you have taken on the responsibility of managing your pond. You will need to observe the abundance and growth of these fish over the next two years, then continue to adjust your management practices as you learn more, based on your observations, about what has been successful.

Good luck, and enjoy the challenge!

Additional Information

General Information

Cornell Cooperative Extension maintains a "Fish Management in New York Ponds" web site at: www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/fish/pond1.htm. This web site contains up-

to-date information about pond habitat assessment, fish stocking, fish suppliers, common pond problems, and also includes a form for submitting email questions regarding fish management in New York ponds.

Pond Construction

"Ponds - Planning, Design, Construction." This booklet is USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Agriculture Handbook 590. It contains detailed information on design surveys, site selection, drainage area, pond layouts, soil analysis and spillway construction. Contact your county NRCS office to obtain a copy.

Permit Requirements

For additional information on permit requirements for stocking fish in farm ponds, as well as contact information for fish suppliers, contact the nearest regional office of the NYSDEC. ▲

Cliff Kraft is an assistant professor in the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University. Since arriving at Cornell in July 1998, his efforts have been directed towards the management of freshwater fish populations in waters throughout New York state.

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The Yellow Birch Leaf Folder

DOUGLAS C. ALLEN

I had the privilege of roaming the great north woods of Maine this summer and visiting sites I had not seen in many years. This trip was a special treat because I was able to walk that ground with a number of local foresters and talk about their management of northern hardwoods. One thing that impressed me more than anything was the abundance of quality yellow birch in many stands. This, in turn, got me to thinking about the yellow birch leaf folder many forest owners may encounter in New York. It is especially obvious this time of year, so I thought now might be a good time to bring it to your attention.

Appearance

This species belongs to the same family of moths that contains spruce

budworm and a variety of broadleaved leaf rollers. The adult (Fig. 1) has a bell-shaped appearance when at rest and is approximately 3/8 of an inch long. The wings are distinctly marked with gray and dark, chocolate brown.

The mature larva, or caterpillar, is 3/8 of an inch long with a yellow green abdomen. The head and dorsal or top area immediately behind the head are dark to chestnut brown (Fig. 2). Like most members of this family of defoliators, when it is disturbed the caterpillar wiggles violently backwards in an attempt to escape.

Early feeding by young caterpillars is easy to recognize because the insect covers the feeding site with a sheet of silk (Fig. 3). By

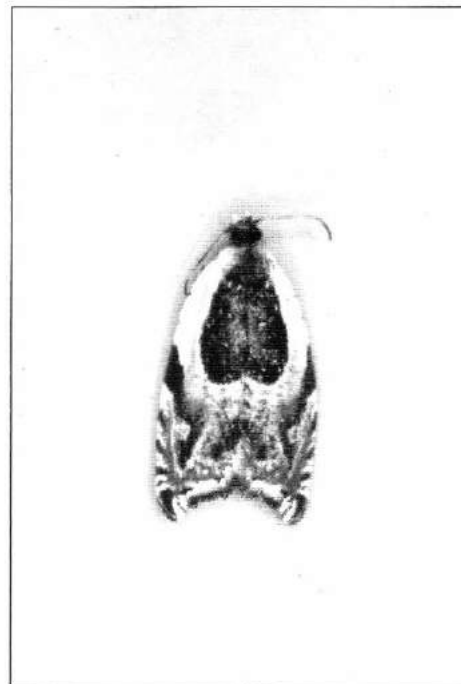


Figure 1. A yellow birch leaf folder moth. Note the bell-shaped wings and distinctive wing markings.

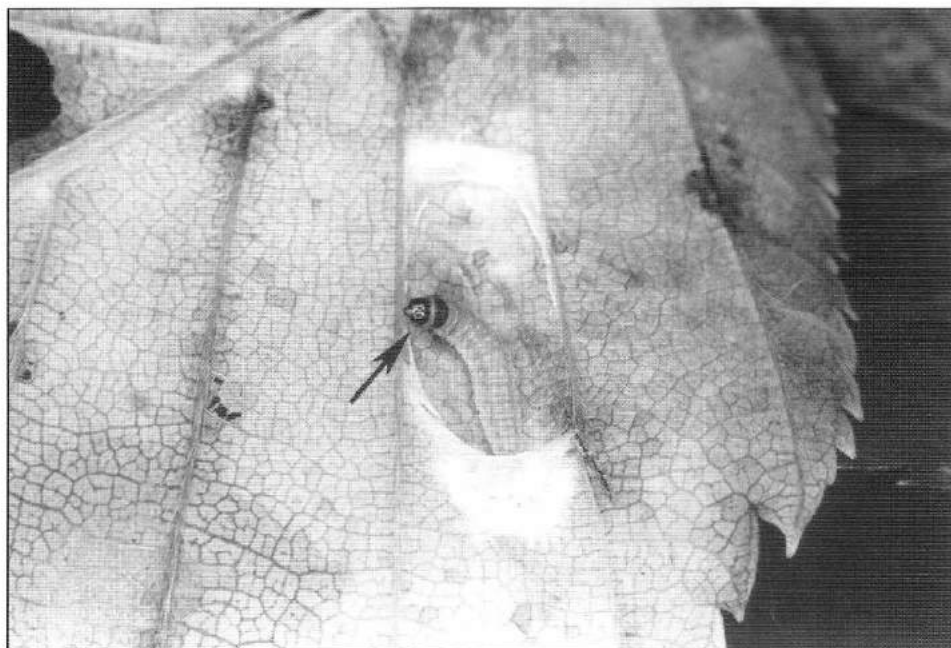


Figure 2. Mature caterpillar inside its cocoon. Notice dark head and shield-like area immediately behind the head (arrow).

the time the larva is full-grown it has folded a birch leaf lengthwise and sewed the leaf edges together with silk, forming a neat compartment within which it lives (Fig. 4). Damage to the leaf is of a form called "window feeding," because all tissue except the lower epidermis of the leaf (i.e., the outside of the folded leaf) is consumed from inside the fold (Fig. 5). The epidermis or "skin" of the leaf does not contain chlorophyll and is transparent.

When the caterpillar stops feeding in late summer, infested leaves turn yellowish-brown and fall to the

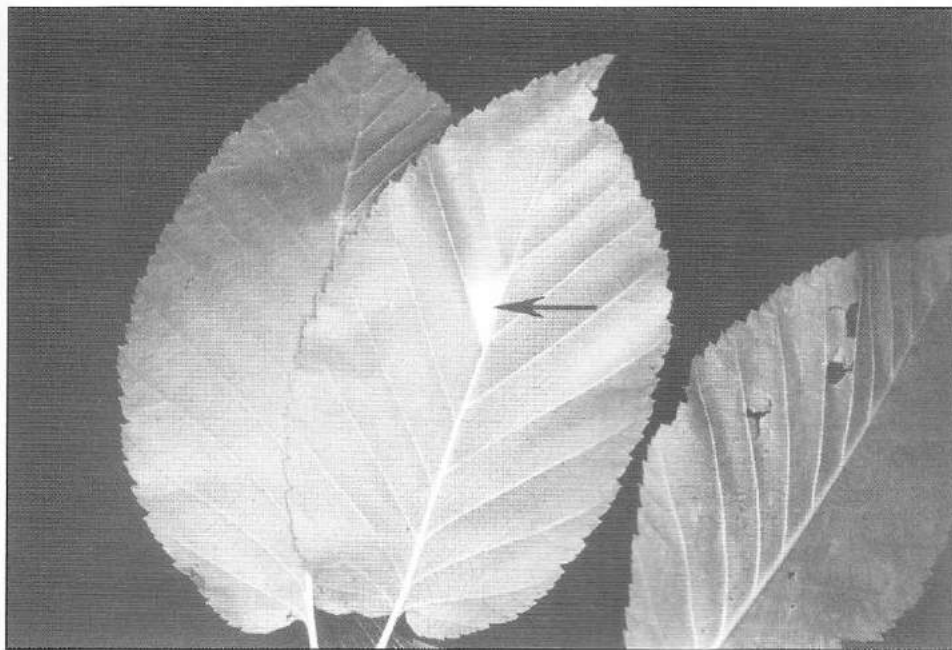


Figure 3. Early feeding indicated by a small sheet of silk (arrow) strung between two veins on the under side of a birch leaf.

ground. Come spring the insect pupates in a silk cocoon within the dried leaf (Figs. 2 and 6). The pupa is a quiet, non-feeding, relatively immobile stage where the caterpillar takes on adult characters.

Life History

Adults emerge from the litter in early June. Eggs are deposited singly on the top or upper surface of yellow birch leaves (white birch and trembling aspen are occasional hosts too). An interesting aspect of the moth's egg laying behavior is her inclination to attach a majority of the small, pancake-shaped eggs on top of a major leaf vein. Caterpillars feed throughout the summer until leaf fall. They overwinter inside a cocoon within the folded leaf in the litter and change to moths (viz., pupate) during early to mid-April.

Management

The yellow birch leaf folder is another example of an insect that

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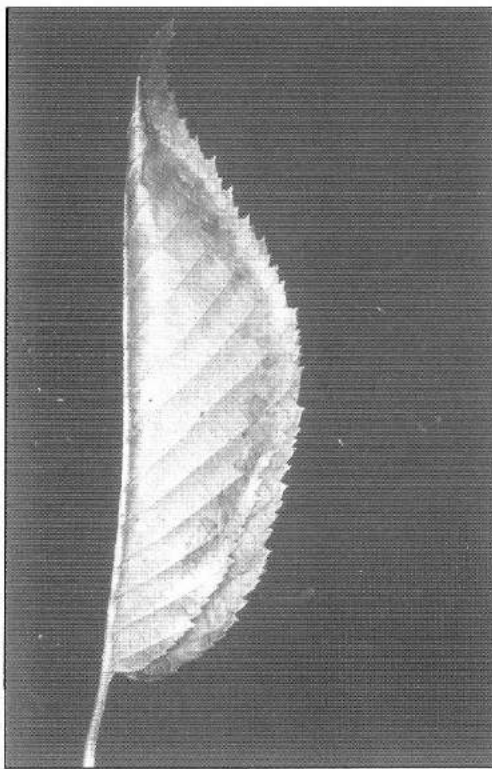


Figure 4. A folded yellow birch leaf.

The Yellow Birch (continued)

causes conspicuous damage, but it has negligible impact on the host. When populations are high, yellow birch crowns look "thin;" that is, sunlight readily penetrates the tree crown, because a majority of the foliage in the upper crown is folded in half. We have heard so much about crown dieback and tree decline during the past decade, that damage by the leaf folder can easily be misinterpreted and arouse the concern of a forest owner. Feeding peaks in late summer but, even at this time, an infested leaf usually contains enough chlorophyll (undamaged tissue) to provide the tree with energy. After one or two years of moderate to heavy defoliation (leaf folding), two species of parasitic wasp (Fig. 6) quickly reduce a high population to unnoticeable levels. ▲

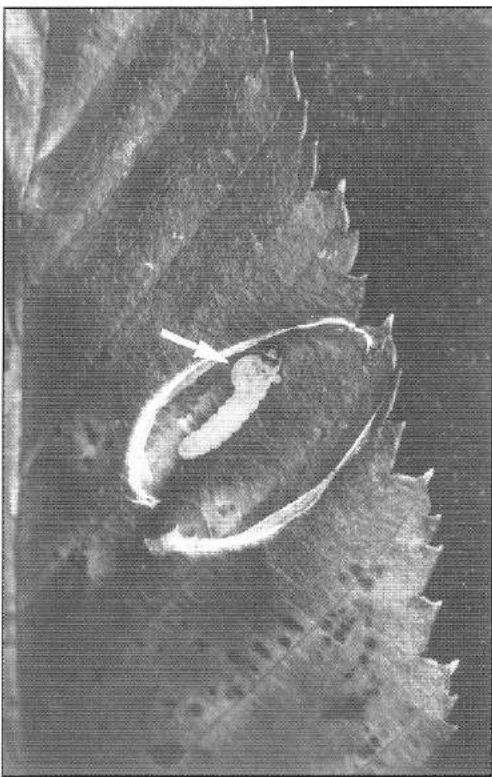


Figure 6. Cocoon opened to show a caterpillar infested by a parasitic wasp (arrow). This wasp is called an ectoparasite, because it feeds from the outside of its' host.

This is the 65th 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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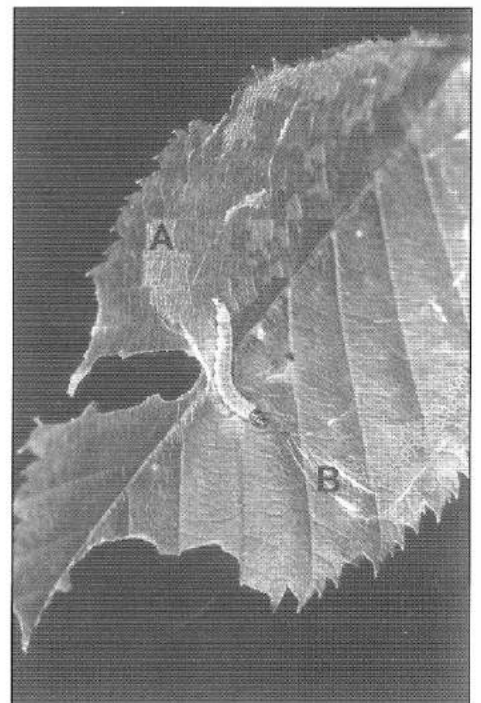


Figure 5. Infested leaf opened to show caterpillar, patches of "window feeding" (A) and silk that was used to stitch the margins of the leaf together (B).

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Entomology

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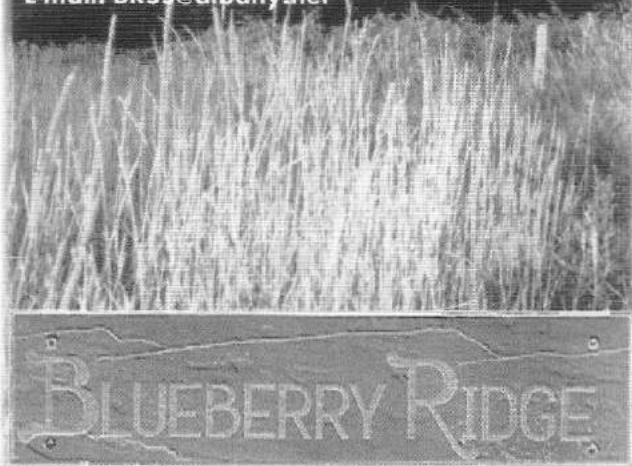


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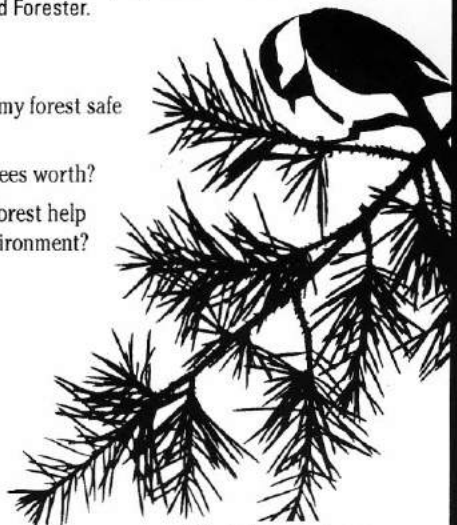
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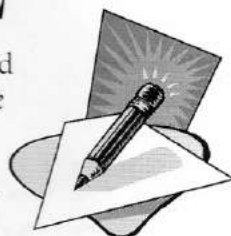
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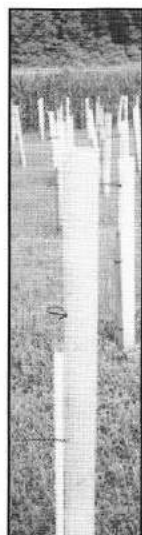
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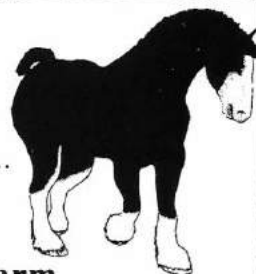
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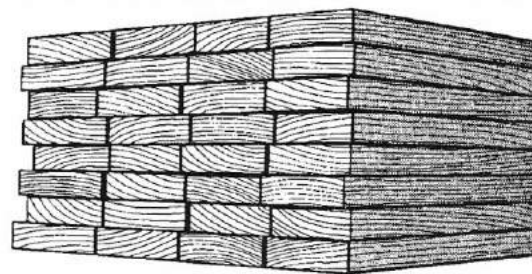
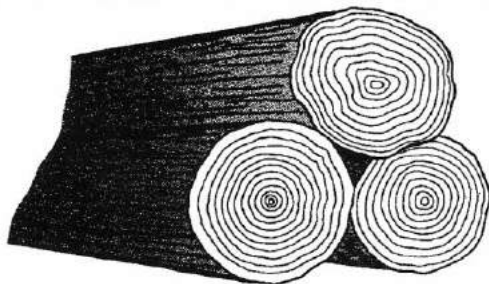
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