

The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

January/February 2004



Another Use for Cull Trees

Volume 42 Number 1



FOUNDED 1963

**THE NEW YORK
FOREST OWNERS
ASSOCIATION**

Volume 42, Number 1

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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 March/April issue is February 1, 2004.

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: James Hart uses his Alaskan Mill and Stihl 046 Magnum chain saw to mill cull trees into dimensional lumber for his own personal use. For complete article on *Another Use for Cull Trees* see page 10. Photograph courtesy of James Hart.

From The President

Forestry Awareness

As owners of private forestland we are large in number in New York State. This large number is not currently well reflected in our ability to influence public policies that affect our forestlands.

Over a year ago your Board of Directors decided to place great emphasis on educating our members and our public policy makers about issues that are vital to the health and sustainability of our forests. During



the past 18 months NYFOA has played a significant role in the development and passage of Timber Theft

legislation. In addition, largely through the diligent efforts of our past president Ron Pederson, vice-president Pete Smallidge, and Executive Director Dan Palm, NYFOA has worked with the NYS DEC to help shape and administer the FLEP program for private forest owners. These successes, while very important, are just the beginning of our efforts, which will benefit not only NYFOA members, but also all forest owners and citizens of New York State.

Through sponsorship of Forestry Awareness Day in Albany, NYFOA and its partners are attempting to change the lack of ability to influence public policy. The primary objective of Forestry Awareness Days is to educate policy makers – legislators and their staffs – about issues that affect our ability to properly manage our woodlands. This is done through the conduct of issue seminars, educational exhibits and informal

discussions. Secondary objectives include creating an informal atmosphere within which interested parties can discuss forestry issues and providing an opportunity for NYFOA members to meet with their legislators to discuss forestry issues.

Forestry Awareness Day will be conducted on Tuesday, March 2, 2004 in the Capitol complex in Albany. Included in NYFOA's sponsorship of \$1,000 is free access to all the events for NYFOA members. It is important that you – the representatives of New York State's privately owned forestland – attend and assist in the education process. So mark your calendars, coordinate a ride with a fellow chapter member and commit to coming to Albany to participate. Tentative details of the Forestry Awareness Day's events can be found on page 19 of this issue of the *Forest Owner*.

I'll be there and I hope to see you taking an active role in carrying out the NYFOA mission of "promoting sustainable woodland practices and improved stewardship on privately owned woodland."

*

It is now the middle of winter, yet the days are already getting longer. The maple sap will run in a matter of weeks, and many of us have finished our firewood pile for next winter. Years ago I had no interest in venturing into the woods in the coldness of winter, but today my thermal boots, wool jacket and my "goofy" hat which has two big flapping ears that do much to keep my ears warm make the woods not only doable but very enjoyable in winter. See you on a woods walk soon! 🌲

—Geff Yancey
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*, woodwalks, 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

I/We own _____ acres of woodland.

I/We do not own woodland but support the Association's objectives.

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City: _____

State/ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

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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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Penfield, New York 14526

1-800-836-3566

www.nyfoa.org

In Memory of John Krebs

Donation made to NYFOA ESF Scholarship Fund

A donation of \$500 has been given from the Western Finger Lakes Chapter to the NYFOA ESF Scholarship Fund in memory of John Krebs.

During John's 38 year tenure, he was a landowner who studied forestry and learned all he could to ensure that his property was managed in an ecologically sound and sustainable manner.

The Krebs property lies high on the hills south and east of Hemlock and Canadice Lakes and consists of 313 acres of forestland, 116 acres of farmland and five acres of ponds and wetlands. John was instrumental to the early success of the WFL NYFOA chapter and then served as a NYFOA State Director. He had volunteered as a Master Forest Owner since 1991.

John was also an active member of

the Tree Farm Committee and in 1994, the Krebs' good forest management practices earned him the New York State Outstanding Tree Farm Award. Last year, John and Carol Krebs entered into a conservation easement agreement with the Finger Lakes Land Trust by donating the development rights to their property while allowing for continued management of forest products and agricultural activities. In John's own words "We wanted to leave something of value to future generations." He showed by example how to be a good steward of the land. John had been battling liver



John Krebs kneels in front of a portion of the 434 acre parcel that is now under a conservation easement.

cancer for some time and passed away in October.

Contributed by WFL Chapter Director - Mark C. Gooding. Editors Note: John Krebs will be missed by those who knew him but his accomplishments will carry on. For more on John and Carol Krebs see the May/June 2003 issue of The New York Forest Owner, pages 8 and 9.

Brooks L.L.C.

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HOW TO: *Determine if Pines Need Thinning*

When forester owners know the proper time and manner to thin a pine stand, they can improve its benefits by permitting the growth of higher quality trees, generating immediate income through the sale of small-diameter timber, maintaining the health and vigor of the stand, and enhancing wildlife habitat.

Yet determining the appropriate time to thin a pine stand can be difficult. There is no definitive answer as to when a pine stand should be thinned. However, consideration of five criteria—tree diameter, stand density, tree heights, natural pruning, and growth rate—can help foresters make this crucial decision.

Tree Diameter

Trees must be at least 5 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) to be sold for pulpwood, because trees smaller than 5 inches are typically not merchantable. Thinning a stand before the majority of trees are 5 inches dbh or larger may result in “high grading,” where the only trees harvested are the larger, faster growing “dominant” trees. These trees should be left as the “crop.” When trees are all 5 inches dbh or larger, the slower growing, smaller, less vigorous trees should be thinned to give crop trees more room to grow.

Stand Density

To determine when stand density dictates thinning, use a tree scale stick or a tree diameter measurement tape, and go through the following steps:

1. Walk through your stand, and take 10 random 1/100-acre plots evenly distributed over the plantation (use a tree scale stick or a tree diameter tape to measure out a circle with a radius of 11.78 feet, which will produce a sample area of 1/100 acre). Record the number of trees and the dbh of each tree on each plot.
2. Take the sum of the diameters of all trees on each plot, and then take the sum of the total number of trees on each plot.

3. Add the number of trees counted on all the plots.

4. Calculate the trees per acre (TPA) as the total trees counted on all plots divided by the number of plots (10) times 100.

5. Calculate the average dbh (the sum of all dbhs divided by the number of trees).

6. Locate the average TPA and the average dbh of your stand on a thinning graph to determine if you should wait or proceed with thinning the stand.

When your stand density indicates your trees are in need of thinning, it is then time to evaluate tree heights, natural pruning, and growth rate factors to determine exactly when to thin.

Tree Heights

Before trees are economically thinned, they should be at least 40 feet tall. If they are less than 40 feet, there may be increased costs associated with hauling the logs from the woods to the mill given that most harvesting operations use tree-length log trucks.

Natural Pruning

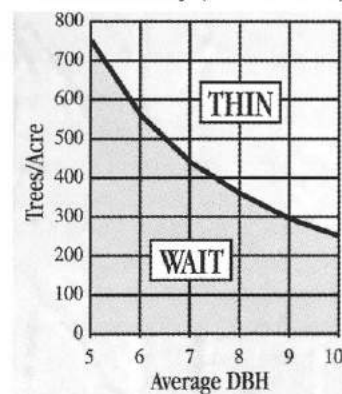
Since pines are not shade-tolerant, they undergo “natural pruning”—the process by which pine trees shed their dead limbs from the ground up as a stand becomes crowded. Natural dying of the lower branches to a height of 18 feet should be accomplished before a plantation is thinned. If there are green limbs less than 18 feet from the ground, exposing these limbs to sunlight as a result of thinning will lower tree quality by diverting growth from the main pole of the tree. Therefore, thinning too early can lower log quality, inhibit diameter growth, and reduce tree value.

Growth Rate

Annual growth is the final criteria to use in determining the time to thin. For example, if a stand has the necessary dbh, height, demonstrates natural pruning, and the density to justify thinning, it may still be prudent to wait if the trees show a high growth rate. The

THINNING GRAPH

Thin/wait decision based on stand density (TPA & DBH)



Using the example of 530 TPA and 6.2-inch DBH, the graph indicates that we should WAIT to thin. Although TPA and DBH are the two primary factors that determine the need to thin, several other factors should be considered. When your stand density indicates your trees are in need of thinning, then you need to evaluate tree heights, natural pruning, and growth rate factors to determine exactly when to thin.

result of doing so may be increased harvest volume, higher stumpage prices, and higher per acre income from the first thinning.

The first thinning of a pine plantation may be the most important activity conducted on a stand and will surely affect the future growth and economics of a plantation for the next 20-30 years. And while there is no definitive answer to the question, “Are my pine trees ready to thin?” by evaluating these five criteria, foresters can help landowners maintain the productivity and economic benefits of their land. ▲

Adapted from Are My Pine Trees Ready to Thin? by Tim Traugott, a publication of Mississippi State University Extension Service. For more information, contact Timothy A. Traugott via email at timt@ext.msstate.edu.

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



Southern Finger Lakes Chapter Delivers a Solid Program

Your chapter can too!

GARY GOFF AND KELLY SMALLIDGE
PHOTOS PROVIDED BY GARY GOFF

The Southern Finger Lakes Chapter of NYFOA plans and delivers three annual "standard" educational events. In February we offer a seminar presented by experts in forestry, wildlife management, and a current "hot" topic. In the summer we host a traditional NYFOA-style woods walk, often in a member's forest. Then, each fall we offer another outdoors program where the goal is to present field-based topics with a "how-to" emphasis. The chapter officers and committee chairs are pleased with the pattern we have established. We believe it serves our members and the local forest owner community well and keeps our volunteer commitments both reasonable and efficient.

The October 2003 "Woodland Owner's Field Day" event seemed to work out exceptionally well!

"This was a great workshop...the hands-on learning helped me better understand what I need to do in my woodlot. I was thinking we were only going to watch a slide show."

"That crop tree part was worth the trip. I never knew how to pick out the right tree, but when we left the forest, I knew a lot more!"

"That fellow with the ATV equipment sure knew how to make cutting firewood look easy! Maybe I can do better."

These are just a few of the many comments received from the 55 forest owners who attended the field day, co-hosted by the Southern Finger Lakes Chapter and Cooperative Extension's South Central NY Agriculture Team. The workshop was held on Saturday, Oct. 11 at Cornell's Teaching and Research Arnot Forest in Van Etten, NY. It was one of the best fall days of the season (something the planning committee cannot take credit for). Jim Ochterski, SFL Chapter President and CCE Educator, echoed the beliefs of all committee members; "...from great roadside sign placement to fabulous donuts, organized registration to enthusiastic presenters, it was one of the best-run events I have been part of." And, Jim has been in the education business for awhile!!!

Many chapters are on the look out for a relatively easy and sure-fire program to deliver for their members and the forest owning public. We believe the planning, the topics, and the format of our recent field day program could be adopted by other chapters to deliver a similar program. Most NYFOA chapters have experience putting on good programs, so for many readers, this article will serve as a review of the basics. Here are a few tips and guidelines that we believe were key to our success.

Planning

Our program committee consists of the chapter officers, plus members who represent a variety of expertise and interests. Education is our mission, so it is good to have teachers and Extension Educators on such committees. Plus, it is good to include foresters (state and



Ernie VonBorstel staffed the sign-in registration table allowing us to acquire names and addresses for future mailings, pitch NYFOA memberships, announce future workshop topics, and gauge success in attracting current members.



Jim Ochterski, Regional CCE Educator and SFL president, explaining to audience the afternoon's program and logistics for the "round-robin" format.

private) who know what the current issues are in the area, and forest owners who represent our primary audience.

The best time to start planning for an educational event is immediately after the last one. It's good to do a debriefing while memories are fresh and start addressing the program's strengths and weaknesses in consideration of the goals of the next program. We had the topics and dates for the field day tentatively set as of April, which gave us plenty of time to peck away at our individual responsibilities over the summer. There is a world of details that must be handled efficiently and in a timely manner; program agenda and format, location, promotion, registration, refreshments and more. Members of the program committee accepted responsibility for whatever they were most comfortable with or that for which they had time.

Timely and thorough promotion is critically important. Announcements should be out about one month in advance of the event; too early and people delay registration, too late and they can't schedule it into their busy lives. It is best to use numerous media outlets including monthly newsletters (e.g. Coop. Ext.), weekly and daily papers and Pennysavers, PSAs on radio

and TV, and flyers posted around the community where forest owners are likely to see them, e.g. firehall, fish & game club, school, library, etc.. News releases should be brief, but include all necessary details to allow people to pre-register. Each committee member posted the announcements on various community bulletin boards convenient to them. In fact, it is effective to tape announcements to the driver-side rear window of your vehicle for other people to view when your car is parked around town or while at stoplights!

We have had good luck requiring pre-registration for our events. One member of our planning committee is retired and is willing to take the phone calls. Pre-registration has proven helpful for gauging the amount of refreshments to provide, seating capacity, and format regarding concurrent or consecutive sessions. Plus, it is good to be able to answer questions the people have about the event and pre-registration may help increase the participants' commitment to attend.

As for refreshments, at the October event we expected typical fall weather, so we provided cider, apples, coffee, water, and homemade cookies and doughnuts. These were available upon the arrival of the participants, so attendees could chat

and mingle a bit. A canopy was set up in an open area at the end of the parking lot. This location helped reduce the time traveled to and from the field locations.

Topics

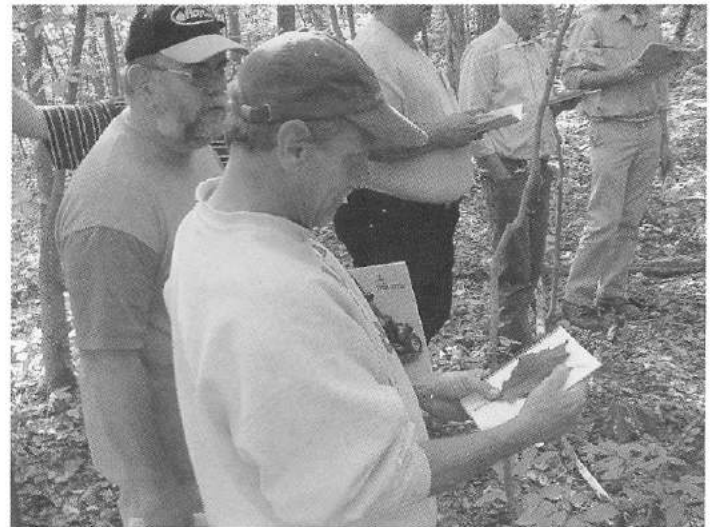
The goal of the fall field day was to provide a program where attendees would leave with specific information regarding how to better perform specific forestry practices. Teaching anyone anything in just one hour is challenging of course, but the idea was to let them know the basics of the practice or activity so that they could go home with enough knowledge and encouragement to practice on their own. Similarly, it is important to always have handouts on each topic that will help attendees learn more. Other topics that are appropriate for field day events include: felling trees safely, assessing wildlife habitat/looking for animal signs, how to make a water bar, pruning and fertilizing a wild apple tree, how to plant a tree, how to use a compass, how to use a GPS unit, etc. In addition to selecting interesting topics, it is critical to make the connection on how these topics apply to making forest stewardship management decisions.

It seems that tree identification is always popular and always needed. The use of ATVs for firewood harvesting capitalizes on the 4-wheeler phenomenon and is interesting to watch, even if the attendees do not own such a machine. Crop Tree Management as a topic works very well because it gets the attendees involved in facilitated decision making at the workshop and is a very practical skill they can use in their own forests.

Format

We had three concurrent "round-robin" sessions (20 per group in the field is the maximum to allow all to see and hear the demonstrations), and we allowed one hour per topic. With this format, it is handy to rely on "ushers" to shuttle groups from session to session and it is important that all areas are within a 5-minute walk of each other. Otherwise, the travel to and from sessions minimizes time spent educating/learning.

continued on page 8



Bill Linloff's demonstration of "ATV-Based Log Skidding" provided a hands-on opportunity for attendees to consider the options for getting more utility from their 4-wheelers.

The woodland owner's field day delivered on its promise to teach attendees how to identify 10 common tree species.

In general we use the following format when hosting an event:

- Have attendees sign-in (staffed) to get their names and addresses if you wish to contact them again, notify them of upcoming events, or do some soft-sell of memberships;
- Offer refreshments and encourage mingling for a bit until sessions start;
- Welcome group and go over day's

events, introduce members, volunteers, and speakers;

- Briefly explain NYFOA and promote membership (use of chapter display is handy);
- Organize the round-robin groups for each session if necessary; and
- If possible, get everyone back together for final thanks to the speakers and organizers, completion of evaluations and to provide the opportunity for folks to join the chapter. A door prize drawing works well to hold their attention!

Summary

Our October field day workshop was a success for both attendees and the planning committee. It was the right blend of promotion, topics, and format. Having a beautiful fall day didn't hurt either! There was a spirit of cooperation from all involved which is difficult to prescribe, but planning and attention to detail surely play a big role. Hopefully some of the above suggestions and experiences will help other NYFOA chapters move ahead to plan and conduct similar events with similar success!

Good luck and remember to keep it fun!! 🌲

References:

Know Your Trees, by E. Cope and F. Winch. Order from Cornell Pub. Resource Center, 7 Business & Tech. Park, Ithaca, NY. 14850. 607/255-2080

Crop Tree Management in Eastern Hardwoods, by A. Perkey, B. Wilkins, and H. C. Smith USDA Forest Service, NA S&PF NA-TP-19-93. Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, 180 Canfield St., Morgantown, WV 26505

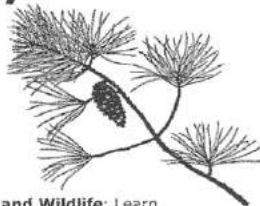
A CTM factsheet, by David Swaciak, is available at: <http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/forestry/page/assistance.htm>

ATV Logging, by B. Kelly, NYFOA Magazine, Jan/Feb. 2003. 41(1):14-15.

Gary Goff is Director of the NY MFO/ COVERTS Volunteer Program and membership chair of the SFL Chapter. Kelly Smalldige is V.P. of the SFL Chapter.

Woodland Owner's Field Day

October 11, 2003
1:00 P.M. to 4:30 PM
Arnot Forest, Van Etten, NY
No fee for the seminar
Refreshments available



Presentations include:

Crop Tree Management for Timber and Wildlife: Learn how to select trees for cutting to promote healthy re-growth, provide good food and cover for wildlife, and increase the future value of the hardwoods you manage.

ATV-Based Log Skidding: See a demonstration of how new devices for ATV equipment can help woodland owners move large logs with minimal harm to standing trees, roads, and the forest soil.

Forest Tree Identification: Learn how to identify more than 10 forest trees, using bark, leaves, and tree shape as guides.

Please pre-register by calling NYFOA member Ernie Von Borstel at (607) 589-4372. In case of program changes, we want to inform participants. This is an all-weather event.

Arnot Forest is on Jackson Hollow Road (Schuyler County Route 13), 1 mile north of NY Route 224 in Van Etten, NY.

Co-hosted by New York Forest Owners Association—Southern Finger Lakes Chapter and Cornell Cooperative Extension's South Central New York Agriculture Team.



CORNELL Cooperative Extension

Sample of flyer used to promote the event

In Addition

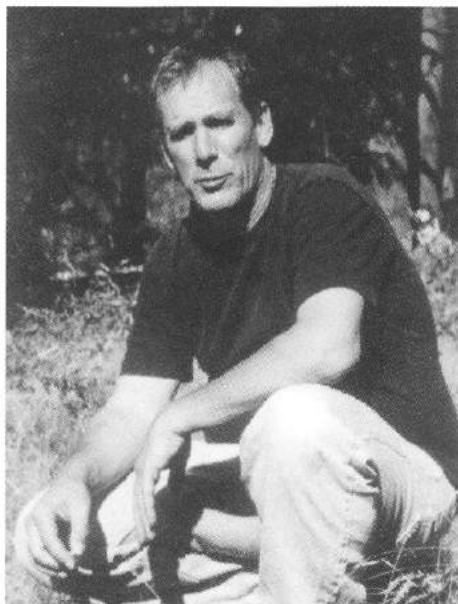
A few other points to consider include:

- Create an evaluation specific to the event. Keep in mind some times it is not appropriate, nor convenient;
- Take photos for use at Chapter events, poster displays, NYFOA articles, Chapter Newsletters;
- Partner with CCE or other organizations/agencies to lessen the work load, and cost, and to draw a larger audience;
- Consider pros and cons of a registration fee; and
- Send out thank you letters to all speakers and their supervisors.

Tom Cutter : NYFOA Disbursement Administrator

Tom Cutter of Canton, New York has been retained by NYFOA as an independent consultant to act as Disbursement Administrator for the FLEP and Highlands programs funded by USDA Forest Service. In this position Tom is responsible for maintaining the accounts of funds obligated and expended, disburse payments to private forestland owners, maintain the database required to administer the FLEP and Highlands programs and prepare progress reports. Funds being administered by NYFOA through these programs are \$585,000.

Tom is a forester by training with a BS in Forestry Management from Oregon State University and a MF in Public Administration of Natural Resources from SUNY ESF. He was an Instructor of Conservation Employment Skills at Franklin-Essex-Hamilton Board of Cooperative Education. He then undertook a career in environmental affairs with New York State government working for the New York State Office of Planning Services, St. Lawrence-Eastern Ontario Commission and New York State Department of State, Division of Coastal Resources. He and NYFOA



Tom Cutter


Executive Director Dan Palm had a 20-year working relationship at the Commission. Since retirement from State service Tom has pursued a variety of projects as a consultant.

Other than performing his function as Disbursement Administrator, Tom and his wife Anne are involved in stewardship activities at their 140 acre woodland property in St. Lawrence County. Recently they tested the wood

stove during their first overnight stay at their newly constructed camp they built on the property.

A hearty welcome to Tom, a member of NYFOA's Northern Adirondack Chapter, for his new association with NYFOA as an independent consultant. ▲

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Another Use for Cull Trees

JAMES A. HART

As tree farmers we know that there are many years of waiting between commercial thinnings and many hours of work culling the trees that interfere with the trees we are preparing for a commercial thinning. The cull trees can be used for firewood, which will keep us warm and sometimes bring in a few extra dollars if we have a market for firewood.

There is yet another use for these cull trees that should not be overlooked for it can save us many dollars. This is to mill them into dimensional lumber for our own personal use.

There are many different types of mills that are suitable for this type of milling. They range from home made to mills that can easily run into thousands of dollars. For my milling I bought an Alaskan Mill and attach to it my Stile 046 Magnum.

Both the mill and the chain saw cost less than \$1,000. On a flat piece of land I set up a milling area that is just the right height for me. This is built from two large logs, 12" in diameter by two feet high. I have two large pieces of slab lumber that are 12 feet long that I use as ramps to move the saw logs from the ground onto the milling area. The saw logs are now at just the right height for me to use the Alaskan Mill.

It's possible to mill the logs on the ground as the tree lies after it is felled but this would require a lot of bending over. I cut all my saw logs to the desired lengths and bring them to the milling area by tractor, load them onto the ramp and let the rain or snow wash the dirt that I picked up while transporting the logs.

I am fortunate enough to have black

cherry, hard and soft maple, and white ash along with an assortment of pine, spruce and hemlock. Once I determine a cull tree I'll look for any section of the tree that is suitable for my use that is about eight inches in diameter and at least four feet long. I've found that a lot of cull trees have some useful sections that can be cut out before the rest of the tree is cut into firewood. All my hardwood is air dried for about two years before I use it. If you have a kiln, this drying time can be reduced considerably. I've found that these small saw logs are very useful to me but have no commercial value because of their short length or small diameter.

I also have plantation pine that were planted for Christmas trees but out grew their intended use and have to be culled out to let the remaining trees grow to commercial size. These cull trees are fine to mill into one inch and two inch dimensional lumber that I can use for my own use. I can mill a 10-inch diameter (which is too small for a commercial sale) saw log and get a lot of useful lumber that I'll use for my building. When I'm milling softwood I'll stack it outside and cover it with a tarp for a month or two before I use it.

The buildings that I've built from rough-cut softwood are a horse barn, two outhouses, a gazebo and a lean-to. Any in-ground lumber is treated, either pressure treated with copper arsenic or creosote. All the rest of the buildings are built with my own milled lumber.

The upright posts and railings for the gazebo and the roof rafters for the lean-to are made from four or five inch diameter



Some of the equipment James Hart uses to mill his cull trees as well as some of the completed boards.



The lean-to that James Hart built from his rough-cut softwood.

spruce poles with the bark peeled off. This style goes along with the looks of the rough-cut lumber. Another feature I used was "Adirondack siding" on the lean-to. That is where one edge is cut straight and the other edge takes on the shape of the tree it came from. These features give these buildings the rustic look, yet are very functional. It also cuts back a little on the amount of milling you have to do. All of these buildings have a couple coats of used motor oil as a preservative on any surface that is exposed to weather. The flooring of the gazebo and the lean-to are treated with a commercial deck preservative.

You can save many dollars by milling your own lumber from your cull trees considering the \$.40/board feet that you will pay for rough-cut lumber from a sawmill. You must not forget that this type of milling is very labor intense—considering you roll the logs up the ramp to the milling area, you move the mill down the log and you have to carry the mill from one end of the log to the other; about 40 pounds. You make all adjustments with a wrench and you must make sure your chain saw is in good running condition.

Your lumber will be milled to a tolerance of 1/8". You'll find that very small pieces are the only pieces put into

the wood stove, everything else is saved in case you need a piece of lumber for a project. Don't forget, you milled this lumber with pure manpower. My Alaskan Mill can be used to mill a 24" diameter tree and the dimensioned lumber you can cut will be from about 1/2" up to six inch thickness and any length you want. Being able to use some part of the cull trees that would ordinarily be left to either decay or be cut into firewood makes me feel like I am getting a little something extra from my tree farm. ▲

James Hart is a member of the WFL chapter of NYFOA. His tree farm is in the Wellsville, NY area.

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NYFOA General Director Candidates

The Nominating Committee of NYFOA presents the following slate of four nominees to fill the four openings on the statewide Board of Directors. Each opening is for a three-year term as provided by the Bylaws of NYFOA. Please complete the ballot below and mail to NYFOA by February 1, 2004.

Renee Bouplon, Chatham, NY (Columbia County)

Renee is employed as a senior project manager with the Columbia Land Conservancy in Columbia County, NY. She works with individual landowners and communities to implement conservation projects to protect the county's working landscapes. Renee serves on the Agricultural Business Committee of the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce, Farm Bureau, Hudson Mohawk Resource Conservation and Development Council Forestry Committee, Hudson Valley Agricultural Heritage Partnership and several other local and regional committees. With the Conservancy, she organized and/or partnered with other groups to provide numerous forestry educational opportunities and oversaw the publication of the Farm and Forest Landowner Bulletin, a comprehensive resource guide for rural landowners of Columbia County. Renee holds a Master of Studies in Environmental Law from Vermont Law School. She serves as the Vice Chair and Program Committee Chair of the Capital District Chapter of NYFOA and has been a Master Forest Owner (MFO) volunteer since 2000.

Charles Bove, Long Island (and Delaware County)

After 31 years at NYNEX (now Verizon), Charlie retired as a manager in 1992. Since that time, he has worked as an independent consultant in the telecommunications industry. In this capacity, he interfaces and teams with various groups, departments and unions across the country. Charlie and his wife live on Long Island and have owned a home and woodlot in Delaware County for the past eighteen years. They recently purchased a new property with a larger woodlot. The second property is also in Delaware County and they have been spending much of their time there. Since owning the properties, Charlie has participated in many programs at the Federal, State and New York City levels. In addition to being a member of NYFOA, he is a member of Cornell Cooperative Extension/Delaware County and has attended many of their programs, including the recent Friday Forestry Landowner Short Course. Charlie is also an active member of the Catskill Forest Association and the New York State Christmas Tree Growers Association, participating in activities sponsored by those associations as often as is possible. Charlie and his wife are active woodlot owners and enjoy working in and improving their properties for personal enjoyment as well as that of family and friends. If elected, Charlie will work with his fellow board members to build and expand on the progress that has been made by those who served before him.

Robert Malmshaimer, Cazenovia, NY (Madison County)

Bob is Assistant Professor of Forest Policy and Law at SUNY ESF where he teaches forest law and policy courses. His research focuses on how laws and the legal system affect forest and natural resource management. In 2001, Bob was the recipient of the ESF Undergraduate Student Association's Distinguished Teacher Award. He has given numerous presentations to landowners on landowner liability, hunting leases, and the Endangered Species Act. Bob has a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from SUNY ESF in 1986 and a J.D. from Albany Law School in 1989. He practiced law in Buffalo, NY for six years. Bob is also a member of the New York State Legislative Commission on Rural Resources' Timber Theft Advisory Committee and the Society of American Foresters' Forest Practices Regulation Task Force.

Geff Yancey, Rochester, NY (Monroe, County)

Geff Yancey grew up in Rochester and Sodus New York. He graduated from Bowdoin College in Brunswick Maine in 1968. Geff joined the small but growing family business "Heluva Good Cheese" in 1968. He became President in the early 1980's and continued as President and CEO of Heluva after it was purchased by a Dutch company. He also accepted responsibilities as a Vice President of Crowley Foods. His other jobs have included President of Perry's Ice Cream, regional distributor for Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream, and managing director for DeltaPoint Capital Management. Geff enjoys numerous non-work interests and has extensively served boards of community and civic organizations throughout the state. These groups include Myers Community Hospital in Sodus, Newark Wayne Community Hospital, Wayne County Republican Chair, Cornell's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences advisory board, United Way of Rochester, and Paul Smiths College. Geff owns forest land in northern New York and the Finger Lakes Region. Geff is currently the president of the New York Forest Owners Association.

DETACH AND COMPLETE

MAIL BEFORE FEBRUARY 1, 2004

Election Form

VOTE FOR FOUR (4) CANDIDATES

Renee Bouplon ()

Charles Bove ()

Robert Malmshaimer ()

Geff Yancey ()

Write-in candidate _____ ()

_____ () Write-in candidate

Name(s) _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Chapter / Affiliation _____

Send ballot to: NYFOA
P.O. Box 1055
Penfield, NY 14526



New York Forest Owners Association

42nd

Annual Spring Program



The New York Forest Owners Association is holding its annual membership meeting in conjunction with the three day New York Farm Show **February 26-28, 2004** at the NY Fairgrounds in Syracuse. The Farm Show exhibits include equipment used by woodlot owners—chainsaws, woodsplitters, and wood harvesters in addition to equipment used by agricultural producers.

Again this year our program has been greatly expanded to benefit people attending the Farm Show as well as our members. Free workshops and a forestry education booth are being co-sponsored by NYFOA, the Department of Environmental Conservation, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. This enables us to reach many more private landowners who could benefit from forest management advice.

NYFOA, DEC, CCE, and SUNY ESF will operate the forestry information booth 8:30 am - 4:00 pm February 26, 27, and 28 in the *International Building*. All workshop presentations will take place in the *DEC Log Cabin*.

The NYFOA annual meeting will be held on the third day of the Farm Show, **Saturday February 28, 2004** in the Martha Eddy Room, Arts and Home Building at 1:00 pm. All members are encouraged to attend the Farm Show prior to the NYFOA annual meeting.

Schedule of Events

Workshops

February 26	1:00 pm	Timber Theft
	2:00 pm	Trends in Stumpage Prices in New York State
	3:00 pm	Wild Edible Plants and Mushrooms
February 27	10:00 am	Planning for Woodlot Stewardship
	11:00 am	Timber Sales - A Guide to Working with a Forester
	1:00 pm	Thinning your Woodlot with Crop Tree Management
	2:00 pm	Insect and Disease Problems in your Woodlot
	3:00 pm	Forest Information Resources for Woodlot Owners
February 28	10:00 am	Timberland Taxation and Other Legal Issues for New York Landowners
	11:00 am	Forest Land Enhancement Program
	1:00 pm	Quality Deer Management
	2:00 pm	Wetlands Reserve Program A Federal Program for Owners of Wetlands

NYFOA Annual Meeting

February 28	8:30 am	Registration and refreshments - Martha Eddy Room, Arts and Home Building Tour the Farm Show. Check out our Forestry Booth (155), International Building
	10:00 am	Workshops - DEC Log Cabin (See schedule above)
	12:00 noon	Dutch Treat Lunch
	1:00 pm	Awards Presentation and Annual Membership Meeting, Martha Eddy Room, Arts and Home Building See more of the Farm Show.

Notes

- There is no registration fee for the meeting.
- Free admission tickets to the New York Farm Show will be mailed to each NYFOA member.
- Free chainsaw raffles will be held.
- The nature of this program requires activities to be held in three buildings. Therefore it is essential for all members to register at the Arts and Home Building upon arrival Saturday February 28 for program information and to return promptly at 1:00 pm for the awards presentation and the annual membership meeting.

Directions

From North and South. Take I-81 into Syracuse to I-690 West. Travel on I-690 West a few miles to the fairgrounds exit (exit 7). Go left at the end of exit ramp, then turn right and go through 2 (very close) traffic lights. Follow the traffic pattern to the farm show area. The Arts and Home Building is adjacent to the Horticulture Building.

From East. On I-90 (thruway) take exit 36 to I-81 South to I-690 West. Travel on I-690 West a few miles to the fairgrounds exit (exit 7). Go left at the end of exit ramp, then turn right and go through 2 (very close) traffic lights. Follow the traffic pattern to the farm show area. The Arts and Home Building is adjacent to the Horticulture Building.

From West. On I-90 take exit 39 to I-690 East to the fairgrounds exit (exit 7). Go left at the end of exit ramp, then turn right and go through 2 (very close) traffic lights. Follow the traffic pattern to the farm show area. The Arts and Home Building is adjacent to the Horticulture Building.

In Praise of Aspen

JAMES P. ENGEL

Foresters have been unsuccessfully searching since the dawn of modern forestry practices, if not longer, for methods to economically regenerate oak in second growth or mature hardwood forests. The long-term goal is to permanently maintain a forest in oak succession. The key word here is "economically." With a great deal of effort, manpower and usually investment of money one can achieve a fair amount of success regenerating individual oak trees, but each healthy tree usually means a great deal of personalized attention and care. Who can predict whether that investment in money, labor and love devoted to that particular tree will pay off in the fifty to one-hundred years it may take to reach harvest size.

Nature has designed each forest species to survive and flourish under certain growing conditions and in certain environments that each is best suited to. Every forest species we have today is testament to the effectiveness of that natural design. One is destined for failure or a hard won victory if natural design is overlooked in managing the woodlot and forest. I have found through trial and error that observing, understanding and then harnessing the natural processes of forest succession have worked very effectively and economically for me in encouraging the regrowth of valuable hardwood trees on my property.

The large areas of oak forest that are common throughout many areas of the state at this moment in time are a snapshot of forest succession. Most of us probably take these oak forests for granted and expect that these forests will remain basically unchanged over time. These forests probably won't visibly change that much in our

lifetime, especially to the untrained eye, but a careful look at the seedlings growing in the leaf litter and understory will reveal the future make-up of the forest which most likely will consist of a beech/maple climax forest, unless the hand of the forester intervenes to retard this steady course.

Most of the oak forests that we see today owe their existence to the demise of their kin, the chestnut. With the extensive die-off of the American chestnut at the turn of the century, the stunted shaded seedlings of oak in the understory were released and allowed to take their place in the canopy. The other factor that played a role in the stands of oak today is the abandonment of large acreages of marginal farm land. This abandoned land was ideal for the process of natural succession to prepare the way for each successive wave of plant community which eventually led to the mature forests of oak, ash, maple, beech and cherry that surround us today.

I often pondered how these stands of oak, cherry, maple and hickory grew to timber size with straight clear trunks without the help of a forest owner or silviculturist to nurture them along by planting, pruning and thinning, and why one tree would grow arrow straight and another tree would show the rotting stubs from long dead branches. The wolf trees that grew in the hedgerows and old pastures with their broad spreading crowns, large massive branches and numerous exposed decaying knots are readily discernible amongst the younger towering straight trunked hardwoods. What conditions were present that allowed these younger trees to develop with clear butt logs, few branches and narrow crowns?

Why do some trees show numerous large overgrown knots beneath their bark and others have smooth clear trunks for thirty to forty feet? Why do some trees have forked trunks ten feet off the ground and others have a single trunk their entire height with hardly a stray branch to mar their perfect growth? The answers to these questions are numerous and varied. Part of the answer is inheritable traits or the tree's genetic characteristics that predisposes a particular tree species or individual tree to a certain growth pattern and branching habit. But I believe the greatest factor affecting individual tree growth and branching pattern is its surrounding environment and this is where the landowner or forester can have the greatest impact on the growth of the tree with the least investment of time and effort.

I can usually read the evolution of a forest by the branching pattern of the individual trees in that forest. The size, shape and branching pattern of the trees can tell rather clearly which trees grew first, how the trees developed, their density, rate of growth and species composition. A group of even-aged oak saplings growing in the open will show relatively large two to four year old branches that grow vigorously for the first few years and then quickly decline and die when overgrown by other branches. These branches can reach a relatively large diameter and require a couple of decades or more of annual growth to heal and cover over the knot created by the dead branch. Trees growing in this environment are also prone to trunk forking and short intervals between branches. As any good forester knows these defects can have a long term negative impact on the economic value of the logs that



Stand of aspen trees.

come from that tree. If the defects are numerous and severe enough the devaluing impact on the log may be permanent or require so many years of growth to cover over the defect that retaining that tree in the stand is unrealistic.

Now enters the hero of this story, the white knight of the forest or maybe the white tree of the forest, the Aspen. Whaaat! Aspen! Ugh! Aspen! That can't be right. I am going to suggest that the best way to grow a good stand of veneer grade hardwoods on open land with minimal effort and cost is to plant or encourage aspen. Don't take my word for it, go out into your woodlot or your neighbor's and look for yourself. By observing the growth of trees in different habitats and environments, I have found that the best type of environment for growing sun-loving hardwood species is a young to medium age stand of pioneer tree species. The pioneer stand creates an ideal environment in which the hardwood seedlings and saplings can germinate and grow, straight up through the pioneer species.

Aspen are the pioneers of the forest both in time and space. Aspen lead the way in the advance of the forest from herbaceous plants and brush to trees and also lead the trees in their rush

towards the sun. Aspen are notorious for their invasion of open spaces and their rapid colonization of these areas. This makes them invaluable in competing with the grasses and other plants which compete very effectively with the other tree seedlings that you want to encourage. Aspen grow tall and straight and are relatively short lived, so they generally die just as the highly valued species are ready to take their place in the forest canopy.

It seems that the majority of valuable hardwood species require planting sites with moderate to full sunlight exposure to effectively survive, grow and compete with the surrounding vegetation. White oak, red oak, black cherry, walnut, basswood, tulip tree, hickory and ash all require at least moderate amounts of sunshine for their seedlings to survive and all do great under a canopy of aspen. Aspen trees filter out enough sunlight to effectively inhibit the growth of more sun-loving plants like the grasses and forbs but allow enough sunlight to reach the ground for the seed of hardwood species to germinate and grow.

It is the way that hardwood seedlings grow in this environment that make for valuable saw logs in the distant future. The seedlings growing

beneath aspen are forced to reach for the sunlight. The tree, to conserve energy and maximize sunlight collection, continually reallocates its energy into new vigorous terminal growth to reach for the sunlight that it needs for its survival. Whatever the mechanism within the plant that makes this happen, it is a matter of survival for the tree. If it fails to compete for the light and win it will eventually die.

Lateral branches that do develop along the trunk of the tree are very small and as the tree's leader continues to grow taller, energy to these lateral branches is terminated by mechanisms within the tree. As these branches die they become brittle and quickly decay allowing them to easily break off from wind, snow or neighboring trees.

This pattern of seedling growth creates a slender straight trunk with no branches or knots for many feet up from the base of the tree. The new wood added to the tree's diameter each year will be clear from any defect and will bring the highest price when it comes time for harvest. Your investment in time and money to achieve this is almost nil. I usually spend a little time breaking off the dead lateral branches by hand or cutting out an occasional double leader.

One question remains, is this process best left completely up to nature or can good stewardship speed up this natural process? Two benefits of aspen are that they are ubiquitous and easy to transplant and grow. You need not buy seedlings but simply dig them up from somewhere and transplant them, or create a patch of bare ground near a stand of aspen that will quickly sprout numerous seedlings. So stop breaking your back and put nature to work for you. 🌲

Jim Engel is a member of NYFOA and the owner of White Oak Nursery, located in Canandaigua, NY. For more information visit his web site at www.whiteoaknursery.biz.

Insects and the Decomposition of Woody Material

DOUGLAS C. ALLEN

Those of us in the forest entomology business spend much of our time writing, talking and thinking about insects that are tree “pests” or, for one reason or another, are considered a general nuisance. Similarly, unless an insect interferes with management objectives, it tends to be disregarded by forest owners and resource managers. Yet, many insects that inhabit a woodlot play *beneficial* roles critical to the maintenance of what we might call a “healthy” forest.

Dead wood comprises a very significant component of healthy forests. Logging residue, snags and downed trees form habitats for a variety of mammals, birds, microbes, and insects. This material is also important because it stores carbon and its deterioration affects site productivity. One of the beneficial aspects of many insects in

forest ecosystems is the part they play in the decomposition of this woody material. Dead wood and its associated organisms are important communities. They contribute significant biological diversity to a forest and are key players in the process of nutrient cycling. Insect activity in dead and dying trees enhances the actions of microorganisms by creating openings for moisture and by providing entrance courts for microbial decomposers like fungi and bacteria. During the act of feeding and excavating tunnels, insects increase the surface area of woody material by physically breaking down this substrate into smaller particles. This action, in turn, enhances bacterial and fungal activity and generally initiates the process of nutrient cycling.

Decomposition of woody material is a complex process by which organic

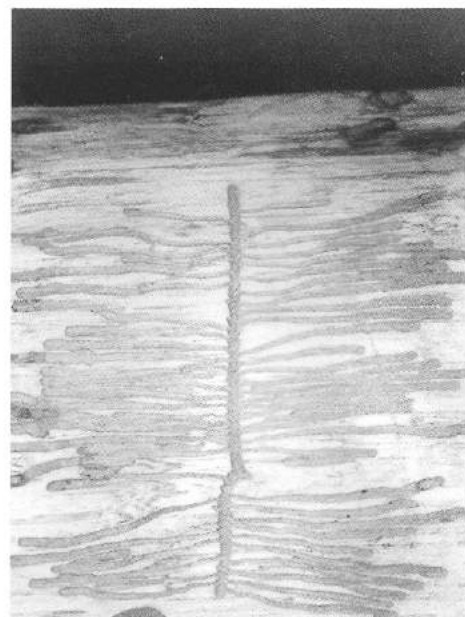


Figure 1. Bark beetle tunnels imprinted on the surface of the sapwood.

matter is broken down into progressively smaller particles and, eventually, into soluble nutrients that plants eventually will use for growth and development. This is accomplished by a more or less orderly succession (progression) of insect and microbe communities as the physical and chemical properties of dead wood or dying trees change over time. The composition of these communities, the degree to which they overlap or change, and the speed with which decomposition occurs depends on the species of wood, size of the woody substrate and habitat conditions such as temperature and moisture.

The chemical composition of wood varies with the part of a tree one is talking about; bark, innerbark, sapwood, or heartwood. The major components of most tissues are cellulose compounds that comprise 40 to 60% of wood by dry weight (these carbohydrates are the principle constituents of wood cells) and lignin. The latter is a complex material that forms the thin cementing layer between cells and accounts for 18 to 30% of wood by dry weight. Additionally, wood contains minerals, starch, lipids (generally fatty compounds and waxes), sugars, and nitrogen compounds.

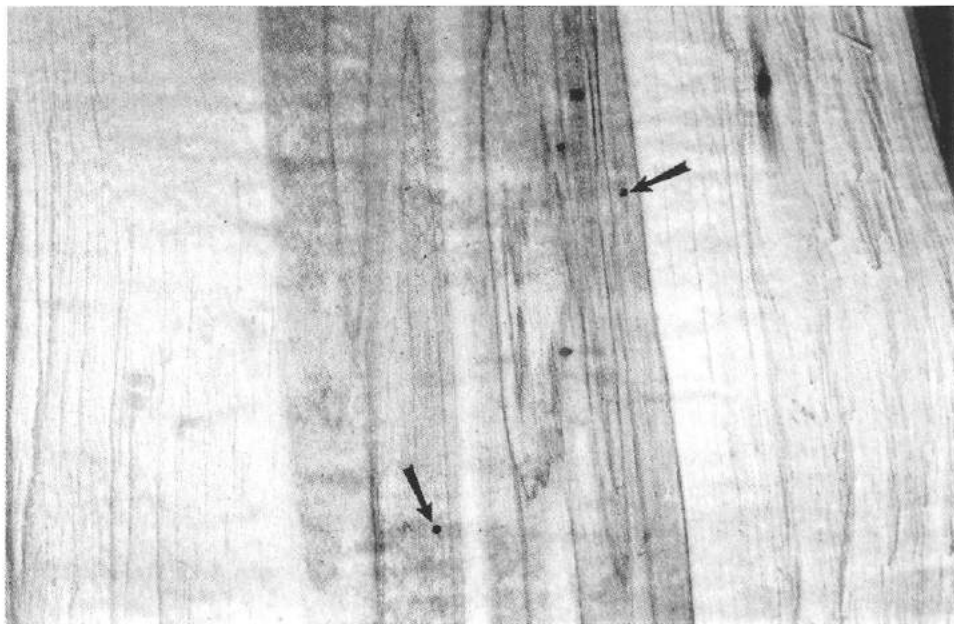


Figure 2. Ambrosia beetle tunnel (arrow) and dark stain caused by the growth of its fungus.

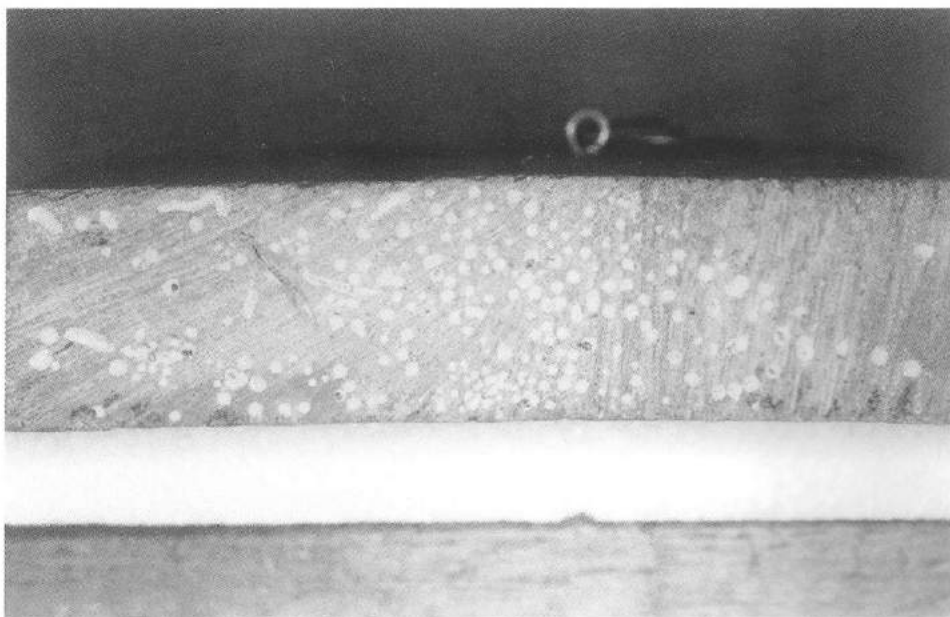


Figure 3. Frass-filled tunnels made by a powder post beetle viewed from the end of a board.

Most wood boring insects do not “eat” wood, because they are unable to digest cellulose or lignin. Approximately 50 species, however, are known to produce the enzyme cellulase, which allows them to digest this material. Many other species possess microorganisms in their stomachs capable of producing cellulase, some take advantage of wood already infested with

fungi capable of breaking down cellulose compounds, and other insects actually introduce a fungus into the wood to facilitate this process. These fungi produce the enzymes necessary to break down the components of wood into products that can be utilized by the wood borer. These relations are all forms of symbiosis (sim-bye-oo-sis), the “living together” of two or more

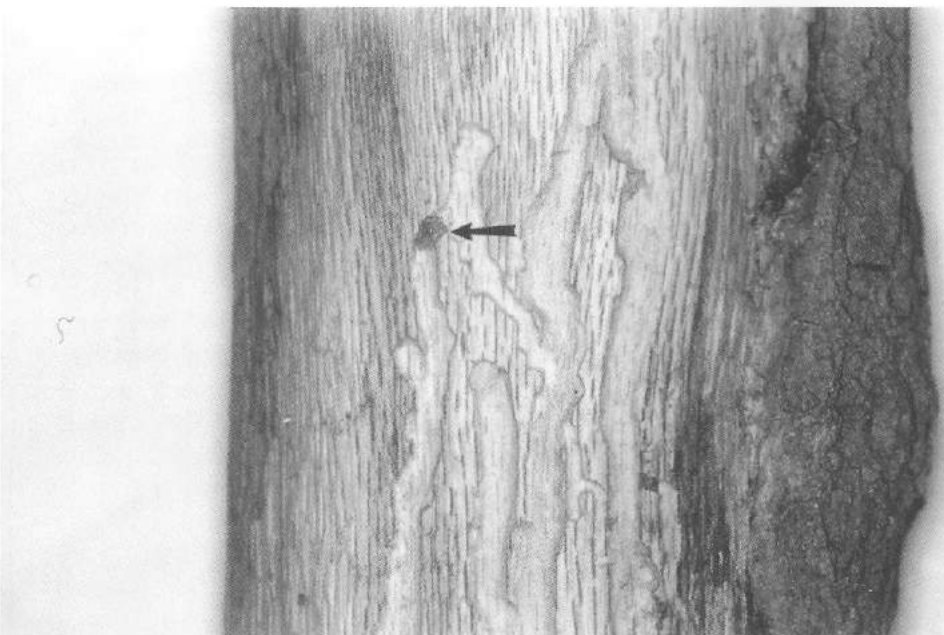


Figure 4. Feeding tunnel of a roundheaded borer and the entrance to an overwintering site (arrow).

organisms. This is referred to as a symbiotic relationship.

Usually, bark beetles and ambrosia beetles are the first insects to invade fresh wood residue following a harvest, wood of injured trees, or trees with reduced vigor as a result of age, poor site conditions, drought or some other stress.

True bark beetles, both as adults and in their worm-like larval stages, feed and excavate tunnels beneath the bark in tissue known as inner bark or phloem. When bark is peeled from a tree or fresh log, the whitish undercoating is predominantly phloem. Some species may also engrave or scratch the surface of the sapwood (Fig. 1). They often inoculate the wood with the spores of a specific fungus. The end result of multiple attacks is partial or complete loosening of the outer bark.

Ambrosia beetles belong to the same family, but feed on a fungus (called

continued on page 18

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Figure 5. Frass-filled tunnels of a flatheaded borer.



Figure 6. Carpenter ant nest in a spruce log.

“ambrosia”) they introduce into very narrow tunnels they bore directly into wood (Fig. 2). In other words, they are not found immediately beneath the outer bark but reside several inches within sapwood or heartwood. Their small entrance holes and very narrow tunnels provide points of entry for moisture, bacteria and wood decay fungi.

Seasoned (dry) injured areas of standing trees where the bark has been scraped off, and logging debris provides suitable habitat for powder post beetles that often follow on the heels of bark beetles. Powder post beetles are very small and consequently have tiny entrance holes. Their tunnels also go directly into the wood, but differ from those of ambrosia beetles in that they are filled with a very fine, talcum-like wood dust (known as frass) (Fig. 3). They feed on the starch content of cells and, here again, their entrance holes provide openings for moisture and decay organisms.

The next wave of invaders usually consists of longhorned beetles (the larval stages are known as round-headed borers) and metallic woodborers (larvae are called flat-headed borers). The first name usually refers to the adults in each family, the second is descriptive of the distinctly segmented, legless, worm-like immature stages and reflects the appearance of the larva’s “head.” Both families contain species capable of establishing in stressed trees, freshly cut wood or woody

material in different stages of decay. Therefore, the immatures of some species are often found in the company of barkbeetles and ambrosia beetles, while others appear after bark beetles are finished. The immature stages of both round- and flat-headed borers feed on inner bark and assist in loosening the outer bark. Members of the round-headed borer family eventually excavate large overwintering tunnels a short distance to several inches into the wood (Fig. 4), depending on the species of beetle. The feeding tunnels of flat-headed borers are similar (Fig. 5), except this group overwinters beneath the bark. The activities of both groups favor entrance of micro-organisms and enhance the activity of the latter, because they break wood down into smaller particles, provide openings for moisture, and loosen bark.

In the presence of adequate moisture, carpenter ant nests commonly occur in

standing trees that are dead or in sections of live trees that are physically damaged. They also occur in woody material on the ground. These insects do not eat wood either, but in the process of building a nest (Fig. 6), they expose a large surface area of the wood to moisture and microbes.

All of the insects mentioned above represent groups that can be pests from a timber management standpoint. Ordinarily, however, under most circumstances they comprise a very beneficial component of all forest communities. Without them woody debris would accumulate on the forest floor and nutrients would recycle very slowly. ▲

This is the 72nd 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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Woodlot Calendar

January 24, 2004 (Saturday)

Western New York Maple School

The Western New York Maple School will be held at the Pioneer High School, County Line Rd. Yorkshire, NY on Saturday, January 24, 2004 from 10:00 am to 3:45 pm. The trade show opens at 9:00 am.

Cornell Cooperative Extension will be working jointly with the Pioneer Central School Technology Center and the Pioneer FFA to offer combination technology programs relevant to maple producers as well as a choice of maple production programs. There is no charge for these programs. A pancake and sausage luncheon will be served and tickets may be purchased from the Pioneer FFA.

This program is sponsored by: Cornell Cooperative Extensions of Allegheny, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, and Wyoming County, Western New York Maple Producers, Chautauqua County Maple Producers Association, Wyoming County Maple Producers Association, Pioneer FFA, and the Pioneer Community Technology Center.

For further information contact Steve Childs at: (585) 786-2251.

February 26-28, 2004 (Thursday - Saturday)

New York Farm Show

The New York Forest Owners Association is holding its annual membership meeting in conjunction with the three-day New York Farm Show February 26-28, 2004 at the NY Fairgrounds in Syracuse. The Farm Show exhibits include equipment used by woodlot owners—chainsaws, woodsplitters, and wood harvesters in addition to equipment used by agricultural producers. See page 13 for full details.

March 2, 2004 (Tuesday)

Forestry Awareness Day

Below is a listing of the tentative agenda for Forestry Awareness Day in Albany, NY:

- 10:00 - 2:00 Exhibits
- 10:45 - 11:30 I Have the Right To Practice Forestry...Now What?

- 11:30 Press Conference
- 1:00 - 2:30 Participate in the Farm Bureau session
- 3:00 - 3:45 The Simple Rules for Getting Assessed in New York State - getting equitable taxation across the state.
- 4:00 - 4:45 BMP Cost Sharing - Who's Got It and How Can I Get It?
- Afternoon NYFOA members visit with their Assemblyperson/Senator
- 5:50 - 7:30 Reception

Any questions, please contact NYFOA Executive Directory, Dan Palm.

March 18-19, 2004 (Thursday - Friday) 2004 New England Christmas Tree Pest Management course

The 2004 New England Christmas Tree Pest Management course has been scheduled for March 18-19, 2004 at Keene State College in Keene, NH. The course is an intensive 2-day series of lectures and laboratories providing hands-on learning about conifer tree health, insects and diseases, weed identification and control. Sponsored by UNH Cooperative Extension, the course brings together insect and disease experts from throughout the Northeast as instructors. Pesticide recertification credits for all the New England states and forestry continuing education credits are available.


The biennial course has been well received by past attendees from New England and Canada. In addition to Christmas Tree growers, foresters and landscapers can benefit by attending.

Cost for the 2 day session including reference materials and lunches is \$120. Space is limited and advance registration is required.


Brochures will be mailed in January. For more information or to be sure you are on the mailing list contact Marshall Patmos, UNH Cooperative Extension, 800 Park Ave, Keene, NH 03431 (603) 352-4550, marshall.patmos@unh.edu

NEWS & NOTES

NYFOA e-Mail News

 Do you want to receive the current news regarding NYFOA activities? Executive Director Dan Palm prepares an Executive Director Update following each Board meeting to summarize actions taken by the Board. Other items of potential member interest are also included. If you would like to receive this Update via e-mail please send your e-mail address to Debbie Gill at nyfoainc@hotmail.com.

Update on NYFOA Scholarship Fund

 The NYFOA Scholarship Fund was established at ESF in 1996 in order to support forestry education and research at the College for generations to come. The NYFOA fund is supported through gifts, bequests, honoraria, and memorials from NYFOA members, chapters and affiliates.

The NYFOA Fund is used to support scholarships for students studying with the Faculty of Forest and Natural Resource Management. Recipients are selected by the Director of Financial Aid in consultation with the Faculty Chair on the basis of academic achievement, demonstrated financial need, service to the college, and participation in extracurricular activities. All ESF forestry students are automatically eligible for the scholarship once they apply for financial aid.

The current balance of NYFOA Fund is \$20,789.89. The 2003-04 NYFOA recipients were:

Bryan Brooks, Forest Technology, Whitehall, NY - \$500 award
Keith Carrow, Forest Technology, Lake Placid, NY - \$500 award

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* Minimum order is 50 signs with additional signs in increments of 25.

** Shipping Costs: 50 signs, \$4.50; 75 signs, \$4.75; 100 signs, \$5.25; 100+ signs, add \$.75 for each 50 signs over 100 (150 would cost \$5.25 plus \$.75 for the additional 50 for a total of \$6.00).

BOOK REVIEW

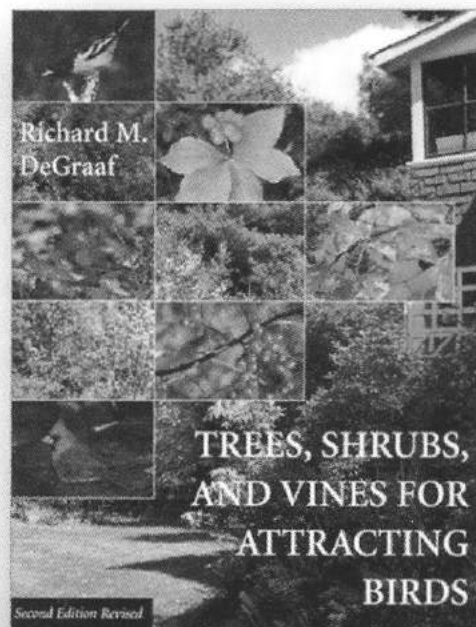
Trees, Shrubs, and Vines for Attracting Birds Second Edition Revised

by Richard M. DeGraaf. 2002.
Hanover, NH: University Press of
New England (www.dartmouth.edu/acad-inst/upne) ISBN 1-58465-215-2
(pbk.) 185 pages, 24 illustrations, 64
drawings.

As a reference guide to propagating and planting eastern trees, shrubs, and vines for birds, this book is fundamental. Richard M. DeGraaf—leader of the U.S. Forest Service Wildlife Habitat Research Unit in Amherst, Massachusetts—offers gardeners and homeowners a comprehensive guide with a large, uncluttered layout. DeGraaf provides answers to readers' questions

about what to plant where, and how to design a New England landscape for bird habitat.

Arranged by plant rather than bird species, DeGraaf emphasizes creating a bird-friendly environment, rather than attracting specific birds. Each of the 137 entries features a detailed description of the plant (including leaves, flowers, fruit, and bark), landscape and habitat considerations, and instructions for propagation. You'll also find a chart of the bird species that use each plant and how they use it: whether for food, cover, or nesting. Appendixes highlight urban plants



favored by birds; plants for sandy, wet, or dry soils; a map of hardiness zones; and flowering and fruiting

continued on page 22



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periods for trees, shrubs, and vines. From balsam fir to pussy willow, DeGraaf indexes plants by common name as well as Latin name and includes a glossary of scientific terms.

While other guides offer glossy color photographs, *Trees, Shrubs, and Vines for Attracting Birds*, relies on handsome black-and-white photos and drawings. The beautifully detailed line drawings of Abigail Rorer are the same ones from the first edition. Not every entry includes an illustration, and those that do may not be adequate for easy identification. Readers who are unfamiliar with the native plants of the eastern United States may want a supplementary guide to plant identification.

For a more extensively illustrated guide, see *Birdscaping your Garden* by George Adams (1994). The Adams book or Donald W. and Lillian Q. Stokes, *Stokes Bird Gardening Book* (1998), may be preferable for birders who want a guide organized by bird species. For readers with a general interest in the relationship between birds and plants, the *National Audubon Society's: The Bird Garden* by Stephen W. Kress (1995) provides a thorough introductory education. DeGraaf recommends some of these same texts, and others, in his preface.

In 1979, readers praised the first edition of *Trees, Shrubs, and Vines*

for *Attracting Birds*. If you were among those early readers, you probably won't need to update your library with the new edition. Added features include notes on planting (an addendum to the introduction), 24 black-and-white photographs, and an appendix about controlling exotic plants. The new appendix on exotic plants is a wise addition; however, not every invasive species entry in the reference section (multiflora rose, for example) includes a warning.

Otherwise, the content of the updated text is nearly identical to the original, and like the original, its destined to become a valued resource for a whole new generation.▲

Review by Elizabeth Webster, Penn State Forest Resources Extension Writer. This review originally appeared in the Winter 2004 issue of Forest Leaves and is reprinted with their permission.

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NYFOA Scholarship Fund

As of December 1, 2003, the NYFOA Endowed Scholarship Fund that is administered by the SUNY ESF College Foundation, Inc. has a fund balance of \$20,789.89



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MAGAZINE DEADLINE

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

Deadline for material is February 1, 2004.



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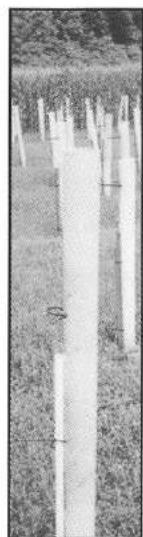
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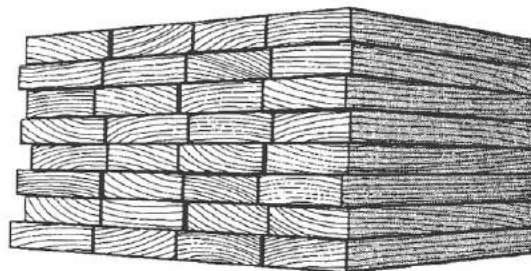
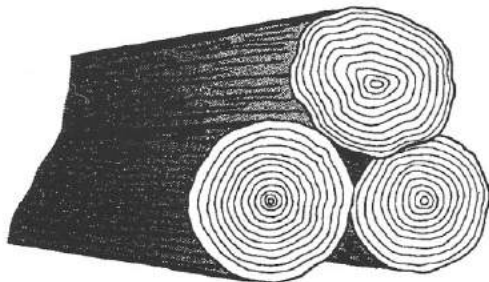
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