

The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

March/April 2004



Know Your Trees – Eastern White Pine

Volume 42 Number 2



FOUNDED 1963

**THE NEW YORK
FOREST OWNERS
ASSOCIATION**

Volume 42, Number 2

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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 May/June issue is April 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: Foliage of an Eastern White Pine. This is the first species featured in our new column, “Know Your Trees.” See page 20 for full article. Photo courtesy of <http://www.forestryimages.org>.

From The President

“A Deal is a Deal”

A couple of years ago Congress began to craft what would become the Farm Bill of 2002. The most important portion of this bill from the NYFOA perspective was the Forest Land Enhancement Program or FLEP (see article on page 14 by Tom Cutter in this issue). FLEP is the latest acronym for a series of federally funded programs to assist private forest owners. The form of the assistance has been at various times cost sharing for practices that enhance good forest stewardship,



technical assistance from public foresters, and education.

The House and Senate approved and the President signed the legislation that included

FLEP and committed a \$100 million appropriation to be used over five years. While \$100 million seems like the Power Ball Lottery payoff, that sum gets divided many times.

First by five years, then by 50 states, then by 62 counties, then by 490,000 private forest owners in New York State, well you get the picture! It boils down to an average assistance of about \$1,000 to 400 or so participants statewide per year. Does it make a difference...you bet it does! Tens of thousands of acres and the environment of this state and ultimately the nation are better off for it. The first year allocation of \$20 million results in about \$400,000 available to New York and means that new management plans are being written, timber stands are being thinned, grape vines are being removed, water bars and culverts are being installed, wildlife corridors established, fencing is going up, and both softwood and hardwood trees are being planted... every bit of which will help to improve the forests of New York State!

The impact of the private forests in New York is huge. Many of my friends are of the opinion that the great forests in

our state which total some 18 million acres are largely owned or controlled by the state or the large forest products companies, and only as an afterthought, by individuals. The truth is that 85% of our forests are owned by private forest owners like you and me. The sizes of the parcels vary from tiny to large but the average is 30 acres. Ultimately the successful implementation of stewardship in New York forests will depend on the ability to reach out to the private owners, not the State or the forest products companies.

That's why NYFOA exists, that is why only the state supplies service foresters through the DEC, that's why Cornell Cooperative Extension reaches out to woodland owners, that's why hundreds of men and women have become volunteer Master Forest Owners...and yes, that's why FLEP is vital.

Proof as we speak the promise of the \$100 million FLEP funding is going up in smoke. Fifty-million dollars of the funding has been “borrowed” to fight forest fires in the West. The restoration of those funds is a very open question. The year two allocation of \$10 million to FLEP which is half of year one, has now been frozen and the progress that we have made is in jeopardy.

NYFOA is excited to be involved in year one of FLEP. The partnerships that have developed with DEC, the US Forest Service, Cornell Cooperative Extension and the recipients of FLEP funds are great for FLEP but bode well for future delivery of stewardship assistance. This isn't the time to walk away from an important commitment to the health and sustainability of our forests. A deal is a deal!! In future farm bills if funds are allocated differently we will live with it, but for now we all agreed on the importance and the funding levels of FLEP. Lets keep our promise to the trees, and encourage our Congressional representative to stand with us...a deal is a deal!!

—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.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

County of Residence: _____

County of Woodlot: _____

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The Forest Resource

The USDA Forest Service conducts an ongoing inventory of the extent, growth and condition of New York's forests. This information provides an important snapshot of New York's forests and is the basis for the information below.

- New York has more forests than any other state in the Northeast - **18.6 million acres**. That's nearly an acre for each and every New Yorker!
- New York's forests are growing over **3 times faster** than they are being harvested, cleared for development or lost to insects and disease.
- Are we running out of trees yet? **Over 62 percent** of the state is covered by forests, an **increase of 23 percent** since 1953.
- **Over 500,000 individuals and families** own most (85 percent) of the timberland of New York's forests.

Just the Facts

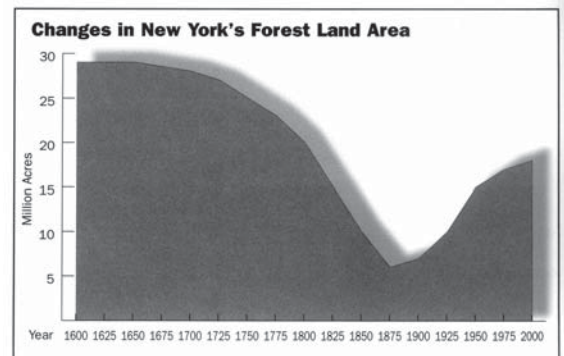
Forest Certification

Many forest landowners and the forest products industry have actively pursued certification to demonstrate their commitment to "sustainable" forest products. In New York there are several certification systems that are intended to provide proof of a well-managed forest. Those include the Sustainable InitiativeSM or SFISM Program, Forest Stewardship Council or FSC Certification, and the American Tree Farm Program.

Certified Private Timberlands in New York

Program	No. of Participants	Acres Enrolled
Tree Farm	1,976	1,302,145
SFI SM	10	644,370
FSC*	5	290,365
Green Tag	3	6,217

*The FSC program has an additional 717,000 acres enrolled. However, these lands are managed by the Department of Environmental Conservation and the annual volume harvested does not contribute significantly to the overall harvest and supply of timber.



Information is provided from the publication *Just The Facts: An Overview of New York's Wood-Based Economy and Forest Resource*, published by the New York Center for Forestry Research & Development and the Empire State Forest Products Association. It is reprinted with their permission.

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HOW TO: *Buy an Ax*

The first consideration in buying an ax is the task for which it will be used

While the ax may not be as revered a forestry instrument as it once was, this versatile hand tool has remained a visible part of the forestry profession. As Bernie Weisgerber notes in his publication *An Ax to Grind: A Practical Ax Manual*, despite the tool's long history in the both the forest products industry and in the American culture, "most Americans have a limited knowledge about axes."

To remedy this situation and ensure that the next ax you buy is the right one for you, you should keep some basics in mind when shopping for that perfect manual chopping accessory.

The first item to consider when buying an ax is the job in which it will be used. Different axes will have different characteristics—weight and handle length, for example—specifically designed to make the tool more effective for a particular task. Among the many kinds of axes, there are felling axes, designed for felling trees; broad axes (also called hewing axes), made for square timber and to flatten the side of logs; splitting axes; and even competition axes, which are used in logging contests.

Dick Reid, a forestry consultant who received his first-hand knowledge of axes while working with the State of Idaho doing timber sale administration, advises that "whatever the model, a field ax should be light and sharp. For general purposes, a longer handled double-bitted ax is the best, as it is better balanced than a single bit."

However, among foresters and

landowners there is little consensus on the ideal weight or type of ax head. Most suggest that the head simply be neither too heavy nor too light and, while this may not seem to be a very scientific assessment, it is worth noting that buying an ax with a head that is too heavy or too light will diminish its effectiveness as a cutting tool and hamper one's interest in using it.

As Michigan State University extension forester Bill Cook puts it, "I like the single bit because I sometimes have need for the hammer end. I like the head weighty enough to deliver a good blow so I don't feel

like a woodpecker."

Others, however, prefer lighter axes.

"I use an ax for banging wedges when I'm felling a tree with a chainsaw, and just to have around," says Brian Holt Hawthorne, a student member at the University of Massachusetts — Amherst. "So, I look for a reasonably lightweight and cheap ax."

Handles are a bit more involved. According to Weisgerber, there are several important characteristics for which ax shoppers need to look. The general consensus is that high-grade hickory makes the best handles. It is recommended that handles be from second-growth hickory sapwood that is all white in color and has less than 17 annual rings per inch of radius. The orientation of the grain is also

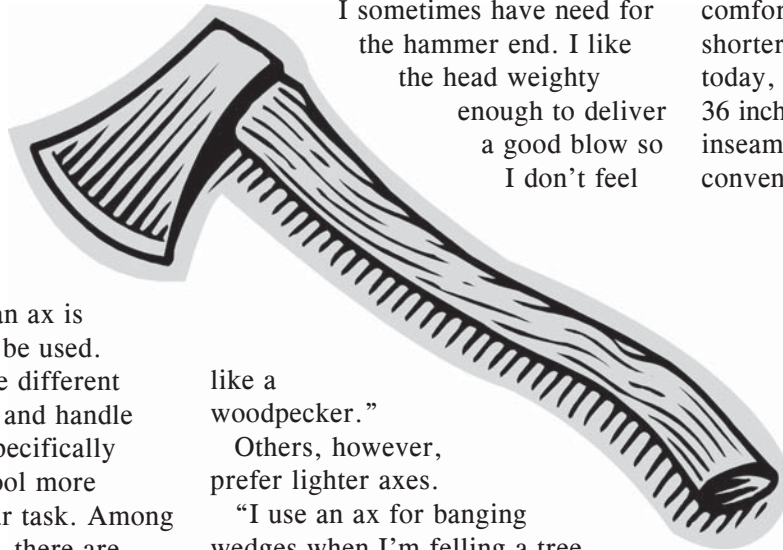
said to be critically important, as handles that are not straight-grained are likely to break.

Ax handles come in a variety of lengths—generally 32–36 inches for a 3- to 6-pound ax. Shorter lengths are said to be better for chopping smaller timber and utility work while longer handles work best for big timber and splitting wood.

"A shorter handle works better in the woods," says David Hamlin, a biometrician with The Campbell Group. "If you can't step over it comfortably then consider something shorter. This could be a challenge today, when all you find in stores are 36 inch handles. I run about a 33 inch inseam and found a 28 inch handle convenient for limbing."

Adapted in part from An Ax to Grind: A Practical Ax Manual by Bernie Weisgerber, a publication of the USDA Forest Service Technology and Development Program, Missoula, Montana.

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



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Biodiversity in Post-Agricultural Forests

GREG MCGEE

“You don’t know what you’re missing.” Many of us have made that remark to a good friend or acquaintance, while we enjoy one of life’s simple pleasures. The sentiment usually proceeds from our desire for others to enjoy what we are enjoying, to experience that which we have experienced, and to share a common appreciation or understanding. I’d like to share this sentiment in the context of our common forest ownership. Do we, New York forest owners, know what we’re missing in terms of the biodiversity of our woodlands? Are there organisms missing from our forests? Are our forests all that they should be? I believe it likely that many of New York’s forests are lacking in biodiversity, not because of mismanagement, but rather because of past land uses.

New York contained 28 million acres of forestland prior to European settlement, but only 6 million acres remained at the peak of widespread clearing and cultivation in the 1880s. At this time a decline in agriculture, and then the economic turmoil of the 1920s and 1930s led to widespread abandonment of farms. By the 1950s approximately 9.5 million acres of farmland were in various stages of succession to secondary forest. By 1993, New York contained 18.6 million acres of forest, more than half of which recovered following agricultural abandonment. Outside the Adirondacks, Catskills and Tug Hill Plateau, the proportion of post-agricultural second growth is substantially higher.

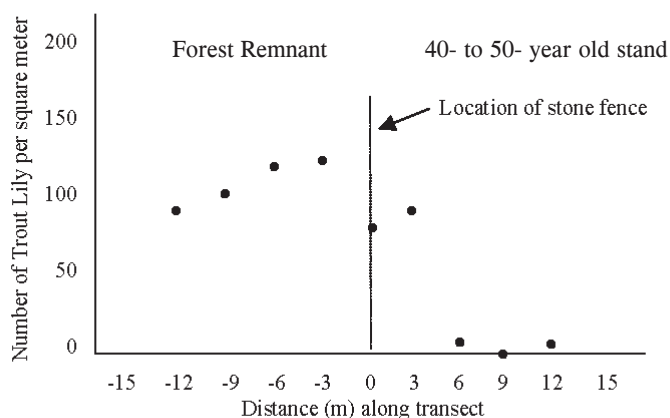
Is it possible that the post-agricultural second-growth forests dominating much of New York’s more inhabited regions do not possess their full, potential complement of biological diversity? I believe so. The widespread clearing and cultivation of the 18th and 19th centuries was arguably the most extensive and intense disturbance to our forests since

the Pleistocene glaciers, and the effects of that disturbance can still be observed. Soil chemistry, structure and microbial communities were altered. Seed banks and live rootstock were depleted. Consequently, all organisms that eventually come to inhabit post-agricultural forests must colonize from outside these systems, and all organisms are not equally capable of this colonization process.

Forest understory herbs may provide the best example of the problem many organisms have in colonizing post-agricultural forests. My wife and I enjoy frequent walks through the fields and woodlots around our home in the eastern Finger Lakes. We frequently encounter old stone fences in the woods. One can effortlessly pick out the larger trees that formed the old fence line. So it would seem that one side of the fence was the old farm woodlot and the other side was pasture or cultivated field. But which side was which? It only takes a moment

to figure out. If you look to one side of the fence row you observe a forest floor that has remained uneven over the years. This “hummock and hollow” microtopography formed over centuries of forest disturbances that uprooted canopy trees. If you look to the other side of the historic fence row you recognize a relatively even and unbroken forest floor that has been homogenized through years of past cultivation. Finally, if you take the time to observe the woodland herbs inhabiting either side of the historic fence line, you often see a variety of herbs growing in the remnant woodlot, but these are widely lacking just meters away in the post-agricultural stand. I’ve seen this pattern repeated over and over again – diverse and abundant herbs on one side of the fence and literally nothing on the other. The accompanying figure provides an example of this phenomenon. Studies in Europe and the eastern US have demonstrated that secondary forests that have

Average trout lily density along a 30-m line centered at an old stone fence between a forest remnant and a 40- to 50-year-old, post-agricultural secondary forest at the Indian Creek Nature Center, St. Lawrence County. Negative distances along the transect refer to distance into the remnant stand; positive distances are distances into the secondary forest. Notice the consistently high densities of trout lily in the remnant, and the migration front of this species at approximately 3 m into the secondary stand



established following cultivation generally contain a lower abundance and diversity of forest understory herbs and some researchers have suggested that post-agricultural second-growth forests may require centuries before native vascular plant communities reassemble. Given New York's agricultural heritage, these studies suggest a high likelihood for state-wide impoverishment of forest herb communities.

Why are so many native herbs absent in the post-agricultural stands even when they're literally right next door? Some suggest it's a simple issue of dispersal. While some plants have wind- or animal-dispersed seeds, many of our native forest understory herbs are not so effectively dispersed. For instance, some are dispersed by ants. Their seeds contain a lipid-rich appendage, an elaiosome, to which ants are attracted. Ants carry the seed back to the anthill to feed the elaiosome to workers and larvae and then throw out the seed into the colony's "trash dump." This simply doesn't work to disperse seeds very far or in a consistent direction. Other herbs don't appear to have any seed dispersal mechanisms and are reliant upon the production of rhizomes and tillers to reproduce and spread vegetatively. Although most perennial forest understory herbs are capable of vegetative reproduction the rates at which they can extend their rhizomes and tillers are on the order of only a few centimeters per year.

But the problem may be more involved than this. Tom Horton, a colleague of mine at ESF, studies mycorrhizal fungi. He is always quick to remind me that "it's the little creatures that control life on Earth," and his point is well taken. Mycorrhizae ("fungus roots") are beneficial, symbiotic fungi that form associations with the roots of most plants. Twenty-five years ago these associations were no more than curiosities. Now mycologists like Tom know that only a few groups of plants DON'T form mycorrhizal associations. These symbiotic associations are quite complex and variable, but in general, the fungus receives energy

Do New York's post-agricultural forests contain impoverished herb communities? Tom Horton and I are about to launch a field study to answer this question and to test three hypotheses to determine the mechanisms for such impoverishment. Is it due to seed dispersal? Is it because of mycorrhizal dysfunction? Does deer herbivory contribute? We could use your help.

This summer we plan to establish 36 study sites across New York. A site will be comprised of two, paired forest stands. One will be a remnant stand that has remained perpetually forested. The other will be a >50-year-old successional forest recovering from agricultural abandonment and be adjacent to the first. We will survey the herbaceous communities in both stands, once in the spring and once in late summer. We will then compare and contrast the herb communities in the remnant and post-agricultural stands to determine which species tend to be lacking from the post-agricultural forests. We will also conduct a bioassay with a native wildflower (perhaps Canada mayflower) to determine whether mycorrhizal fungi are more active in remnant forests compared to post-agricultural stands. To do this, we will plant sterilized

from plants in the form of simple sugars. In return, the fungus extends its hyphal network into the soil to break down organic matter and obtain essential mineral nutrients (especially phosphorus). These nutrients are then transferred to the plant. In essence, the fungus serves to extend the fine root system of the plant. Like plants, some mycorrhizal fungi are eliminated from cultivated soils and then are slow to recolonize. Therefore, Tom suggests that, even if plants are capable of dispersing their seeds into post-agricultural forests, the proper mycorrhizal fungus may not be present to allow them to establish.

In addition to potential seed dispersal limitations and possible dysfunction of mycorrhizal systems, most of us appreciate the impact that deer browsing has on tree regeneration and forest herbs. So, we can't discount the possibility that herbs are slow to colonize post-agricultural

mayflowers in the understory of the two stands. We will then return to collect the plants 30 days later and determine the extent of mycorrhizal colonization on the roots. We expect there will be less colonization in the post-agricultural forests. Eventually, we will select a subset of 12 sites to conduct a controlled experiment in which we sow wildflower seeds in post-agricultural stands on soils from the post-agricultural stands and soils of adjacent remnant stands. Deer exclosures will be constructed around some plots and other plots will be left open to deer herbivory. This experiment will allow us to determine whether the distribution of these herb species is limited by seed dispersal, the availability of mycorrhizae in the soil, or chronic browsing by deer.

We invite NYFOA members to participate in this study. If you own forest stands that meet our criteria (i.e., a remnant stand with an adjacent post-agricultural, successional stand), and are willing to allow us access to your property to conduct the initial survey, and later to conduct our sowing experiment we would like to hear from you. Together we will be able to "know what we're missing," and eventually restore New York's forests to their full biologic potential.

forests because of excessive browsing pressure. Deer may kill individual plants outright, or reduce their capacity to flower and set seed.

If we looked into this phenomenon for other organisms such as soil invertebrates, soil microbes, and mosses and lichens, we would likely see similar patterns. With greater than 50% of New York's forests recovering from agricultural abandonment, and a much higher proportion (perhaps approaching 90% in some locations) outside of the Adirondacks, Catskills and Tug Hill Plateau, I wonder exactly how diminished the biodiversity of our forests has become. And do we even know what we're missing? 🐇

Greg McGee, PhD is a Professor in the Faculty of Environmental and Forest Biology at SUNY ESF. He may be reached at (315) 470-4814 or ggmcgee@esf.edu.

Becoming a Wildflower Fan

RANCE SCOTT HARMON AND JIM FINLEY

They have patiently prepared for this moment for months. Now when conditions are right they'll tap their energy reserves in a competition that will have repercussions for future generations. If they fail, they will have to spend months preparing for next year. Like athletes in the championship tournament, woodland wildflowers have a narrow window of time to make good on months of preparation. Many use energy stored in underground bulbs, roots, or rootstalks to jump-start the rapid growth of leaves and flowers. They emerge quickly in spring to take advantage of the short time, after the soil thaws, when the forest floor is awash in sunlight. In a matter of weeks, the leaves on taller

shrubs and trees will mature and cast shade on the forest floor. By then, most of the flowers will fade, though the leaves may persist longer.

During this brief timeframe, wildflowers compete for pollinators. Some woodland wildflowers use bright petals to attract bumblebees and other insects, which come in search of sweet, sugary nectar. Other wildflowers have foul odors that attract flies. When the insects visit, they spread pollen from flower to flower. When pollen from one flower fertilizes another flower, the resulting seeds have a combination of traits from both parent plants. This process, called cross-pollination, increases the genetic diversity of the offspring, helping to ensure that at least some of the next generation of plants will be

adapted to survive future conditions.

For many forest stewards, it is a great joy to be a spectator of this glorious natural competition. The beauty of the sunlit forest floor awash in color is thrilling even to the casual observer. However, like devoted sports fans who enthusiastically follow a team, forest stewards can get more out of their time in the woods by getting to know the

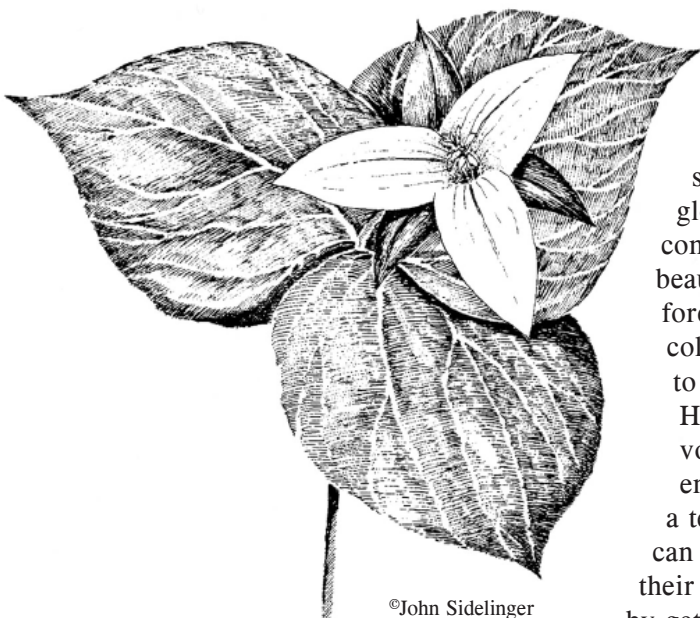
individual players, the wildflowers in this case, and where they occur, the conditions under which they thrive, and how they interact.

Wildflowers can tell you much about conditions in your woods. The arrangement of vegetation in the landscape is influenced by a variety of factors. By learning to read what the wildflowers are telling you about your forest, you can discover things that can enhance your appreciation for your woodland and your ability to make wise management decisions. Here are some examples of things you can learn from observing the wildflowers in your woods:

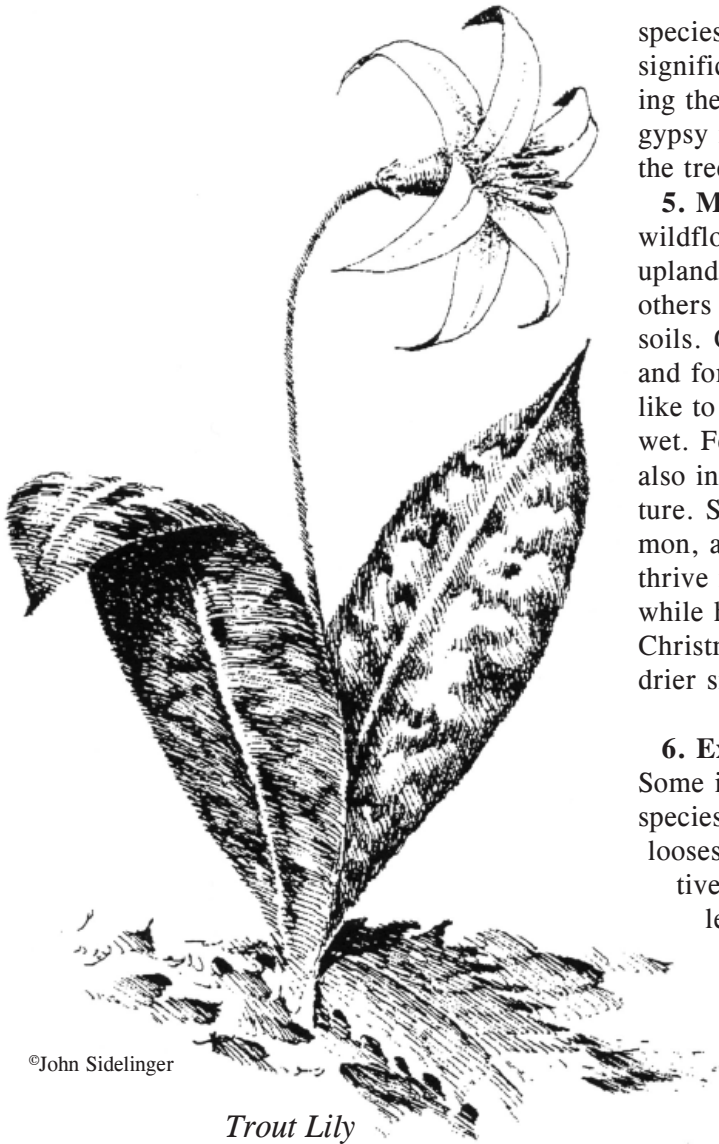
1. Soil Conditions: Each plant has a preferred range of soil conditions. Many woodland wildflowers, like trillium, Dutchman's-breeches, and blue cohosh, prefer nutrient rich soils, while others thrive in poorer soils. For example, you can often find columbine or early saxifrage growing on rocky slopes or in crevices.

2. Soil acidity: The degree of soil acidity (pH) is a critical factor in plant health. For example, trailing arbutus, trillium, and twinflower thrive in more acidic soils than many other woodland wildflowers. A dearth of wildflowers may indicate that acid rain is negatively affecting the soils in your woodland.

3. White-tailed Deer: Studies in the Allegheny National Forest and



Large-Flowered Trillium



©John Sidelinger

Trout Lily

species may indicate that significant light is reaching the forest floor. Have gypsy moths defoliated the trees in the area?

5. Moisture: Some wildflowers prefer drier upland conditions, while others thrive in moist soils. Cardinalflowers and forget-me-nots both like to have their feet wet. Fern species can also indicate soil moisture. Sensitive, cinnamon, and ostrich ferns thrive in moist soils, while hay-scented and Christmas ferns prefer drier sites.

6. Exotic Invaders: Some invasive exotic species, like purple loosestrife have attractive flowers. Nonetheless, they can wreak havoc in our woodlands. By knowing the native plants in your woodland

and keeping an eye out, you will be able to react quickly if an invasive plant appears in your woodlot. Invasive plants are very difficult and expensive to control once they become well established in your woods.

Learning your wildflowers is fun and challenging. By spending time in your woods this spring with a good wildflower guide in your pocket, you can learn much about the condition of your forest. Don't try to learn all the plants you see. Start slowly and notice where certain wildflowers occur. Then when you see them in other locations, ask yourself what the sites have in common. Over time, you will come to associate each wildflower with a certain range of growing conditions. So, get out there this spring and get to know the wildflowers competing in your woodland. ▲

Rance Scott Harmon is editor of "Forest Leaves" the newsletter about Pennsylvania's privately owned forestlands and Jim Finley is with Penn State Forest Resources Extension. This article originally appeared in the Spring 2003 issue of "Forest Leaves" and is reprinted with their permission.

elsewhere show that high numbers of whitetailed deer can lead to decreased wildflower diversity (as well as decreased habitat for songbirds). If there are few wildflowers in your woods, it may indicate heavy deer browsing, which can lead to poor tree regeneration.

4. Light Conditions: Spring-blooming woodland wildflowers tend to thrive in areas shaded during most of the growing season. Other species thrive when more light is available. If you are finding species in the woods that are more typical of forest openings, such as pokeweed, strawberries, and common mullein, such

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Why New York's RPTL §480-a Does *Not* Encourage Forest Stewardship

DAVID J. COLLIGAN

“Don’t tax you, don’t tax me. Tax that fellow behind the tree,” *Newsweek* columnist George Will quipped. Chances are that fellow behind the tree is a private forest owner.

Woodland owners are increasingly feeling pressure due to property taxation and urban sprawl. Over the last century, large industrial forest tracts have been broken up and marginal farms have been abandoned. These lands have been sold for amenity values, recreational use and, in some cases, timber production. At the same time, the perception of modern forest owners has evolved toward stewardship of the land with responsibility to enhance future enjoyment and use of the forests.

Quietly, but steadily, this forest stewardship evolution has caused or coincided with a revolution in the state taxation of forests. A vast majority of the states have changed their “ad valorem” (by the value) tax rules in hopes of encouraging the forest owner to perpetuate forestland and develop forest management plans utilizing sound silvicultural practices.

Former Governor of New York Teddy Roosevelt was the first President of the United States to recognize the importance to the nation of its privately owned forests. Roosevelt’s Conservation Commission report in 1909 included an observation by the Director of the United States Department of Agriculture, Fred Rogers Fairchild, that criticized the traditional wisdom of applying the ad valorem taxation methods to forestland. Essentially, Fairchild concluded that ad valorem taxation acted as a disincentive to long-term timber management.

A quick review of the ad valorem theory of taxation explains why Fairchild criticized the system as it

applied to forest ownership. In a theoretically perfect ad valorem taxation system, a person who owns land served by the community pays taxes to the community based upon the “highest and best use” of the land owned. “Highest and best use” means the use that would maximize the value of the property, including uses such as hotels and shopping malls, if practical. In theory, those who own the most valuable property pay the most tax. Often the property’s current use as forestland is not the highest and best use, and as suburban development spreads, the amount of forestland that could be subject to higher valued uses increases. Further, the full timber value is often added to the raw land’s highest and best value for assessment purposes, further exacerbating the tax burden on forest owners.

New York’s Response: 480 and 480-a

Not long after Fairchild made his observations and criticisms of the ad valorem taxation system as applied to forestland, New York passed one of the first forest tax incentive statutes in the nation in the form of Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) Section 480 in 1926. This law is also known as the “Fisher Forest Act” in honor of one of its early sponsors. This progressive statute recognized the inappropriateness of ad valorem taxation as applied to forested parcels and sought to promote private ownership of forest parcels by incentivizing forest owners to enroll their properties to take advantage of a limited tax exemption. Upon enrollment, the landowner received a benefit in the form of a frozen assessed value, which could not be changed unless a district wide re-evaluation occurred within the taxing district where the

land was located. In exchange, the forest owner in New York agreed to pay six (6%) percent of the stumpage value as determined by the assessor thirty (30) days prior to any harvest. The six (6%) percent stumpage payment (also called the “yield tax”) was also due if the owner either withdrew from the program or failed to comply with the program’s requirements. This revolutionary new statute was deemed unsatisfactory for a variety of reasons and eligibility for the RPTL 480 Program ended on August 31, 1974.

The RPTL 480 Program was replaced by the RPTL 480-a Program, which had many similarities to the previous program such as private ownership eligibility and the requirement that the property be certified as containing potential for timber production. However, additional requirements were added which have proven to disincentivize participating in the new program. One of these additional requirements is a commitment under severe penalty by the landowner to continue forest crop production for ten (10) years from the date of enrollment and to actively manage the property pursuant to a written management plan. Due to health and time considerations, this active management requirement has become an obstacle for many forest owners when considering participation in this program. Additionally, the newer law requires a minimum fifty (50) or more contiguous forest acres rather than the fifteen (15) acres in the original RPTL 480 Program, with no allowance for open land or wetlands.

The benefit to the landowner for enrolling in RPTL 480-a is a reduction of eighty (80%) percent of the assessed value of the eligible acreage (or a lesser amount calculated by taking the assessed value less \$40.00 multiplied

by the latest equalization rate times the number of acres, go figure!). While the benefit of this formula appears attractive, assessors throughout the state have been using every method possible to blunt the benefit of the forest tax exemption. Frequently, assessors will change the tax assessment classifications of enrolled property from “abandoned agriculture” and other low assessment categories to “forestland” and/or “prime lot” classification, thereby effectively raising the assessed value of the property and reducing or even eliminating the benefit of the RPTL 480-a Program. To add insult to injury, under the 480-a Program, the landowner, upon harvest, must pay a six percent (6%) stumpage payment to the County Treasurer who, in turn, reimburses the municipality from which the stumpage was cut. Therefore, the same town assessor who minimized or eliminated the benefit of enrolling in the RPTL 480-a Program can be the direct recipient of the yield tax created by the program!

To top it off, the new RPTL 480-a Program created a whole series of penalties, which greatly discouraged participation in the New York Program. If, for any reason, property once certified is converted to a use which precludes forest management, the owner fails to comply with the management plan, the owner fails to make a harvest prescribed by the DEC, or some other violation of the strict letter of the law occurs, the owner is liable for a severe penalty. The penalty is a multiple of the taxes that have been saved and varies depending on whether there was an entire or partial withdrawal from the Program. If it is an entire withdrawal, the penalty is 2.5 times the amount of taxes for the previous ten (10) years. If it is a partial withdrawal, the amount is 5 times the taxes saved for the previous ten (10) years. Either penalty is subject to interest compounding annually. Put another way, if someone enrolled in the RPTL 480-a Program for a period of ten (10) years decides to remove their property from the program, they will pay a penalty of at least twenty-

five (25) times the current year’s taxes saved if they remove the entire eligible tract or at least fifty (50) times the current year’s taxes saved if they remove a part of the eligible tract!

In many respects, New York State is a victim of its own enlightenment. By creating one of the first statutory schemes in the nation to incentivize forest ownership, the state was sailing in uncharted waters. As problems developed, New York was forced to replace RPTL 480 with a new law designed to address inadequacies of the previous law without full consideration of the probable effects on the program itself. This piece-meal approach to curing a statutory scheme has caused the New York forest incentive program to be the lowest subscribed program in the nation at five (5%) percent!

How Other States Incentivize Stewardship

There are currently 46 other states with forest incentive programs. The salient feature of each of the programs is explained in the chart on page 13. A review of the seven (7) headings that follow will give the reader an idea of how other states have created stewardship incentive programs that do not rely on traditional notions of ad valorem taxation. The variety of ways other states have incentivized forestland ownership hopefully provides some insight into what is good and bad about the New York Law. By breaking it out on a chart, one can see that there is a wide range of variability among the individual state’s programs. By understanding other states’ treatment of similar issues, it is hoped that a dialogue can be created whereby New York’s forestland tax incentive statute can be eventually improved to the point where people will begin to enroll under the statutory scheme and New York can achieve the public policy it set out to achieve almost 80 years ago!

Here is a review of each column on the attached chart as well as this author’s personal view of what problems New York encounters as well as suggested reforms. There is no doubt that there will be some controversial

positions taken by the author but hopefully it will engender constructive discussions as to what should or should not be changed about the New York statutory scheme. My take on the New York statute is as follows:

“FOREST CLASS OR CURRENT USE” (COLUMN ONE) – Virtually all of the 47 states that have forest tax incentive statutes have a special classification that applies to forestland. States such as New York will often designate all forestland using a single classification. In contrast, some states differentiate based upon forestland productivity by using a “current use” designation which evaluates the productivity of the land being taxed in a way similar to New York’s Agriculture Tax Incentive Program whereby the most fertile farmlands have the highest tax classification while the least fertile farmlands have the lowest tax classification.

New York Problems: By broadly characterizing all forested property as “forestland” for the purposes of RPTL 480-a, New York allows assessors to increase the assessed valuation on property eligible for the RPTL 480-a Program by changing its designation, prior to applying the statutory tax abatement!

Suggested reform: New York should prohibit the reclassification and resulting change in assessed value of any property enrolled in the RPTL Program. If necessary, such property could be designated as “RPTL 480-a land” (or new statute RPTL 480-b?). New York should also investigate whether forestland productivity considerations can be applied to forestland as it does to agricultural land.

“SEVERANCE TAX” (COLUMN TWO) – Recognizing that a majority of states impose some form of tax that is timed to coincide with the harvest of timber products from the property, this column indicates whether the tax is calculated as a percentage of the removed wood products (yield tax) or calculated by multiplying the number

continued on page 12

of units (cord or board foot) times a set fee per unit. Interestingly, states such as Alabama apply a fifty (50%) penalty to the yield tax on units of wood exported from the state in raw log form thereby discouraging the performance of value-added operations outside the state borders. No doubt, this could be a solution to the rising log export problem from New York's timber rich areas.

New York Problems: Local towns that have property signed up in the RPTL 480-a Program must go without significant property tax revenues, until such time as the property is harvested for timber and the yield tax is paid. This places tremendous strains on local budgets.

Suggested reform: New York's yield tax should continue to be paid to the state, upon harvest, but the state should reimburse localities for tax abatement losses under the RPTL 480-a Program each and every year regardless of the timing of the harvest on individual tracts within the towns. Governor Pataki's proposed 2004 budget calls for a state reimbursement to localities for tax base loss greater than one (1%) percent.

"FOREST OWNER OPTION" (COLUMN THREE) – Indicates whether individual states require the landowner to enroll in a program or leave it as a landowner option. With the exception of the three states that have no programs (Alaska, Arizona and South Dakota), any "no" in this column means that state requires all forestland to be included in their forestland incentive program.

New York Problems: Without a major shift in public policy, it seems reasonable to permit optional enrollment by landowners.

Suggested reforms: None.

"MANAGEMENT PLAN REQUIRED" (COLUMN FOUR) – Indicates whether states require a management plan to be in effect prior to enrollment in the Program. Clearly, states have a strong interest in good

management of the forestry resource by trained individuals guiding landowners through their forest management decision process. By requiring management plans as a condition to enrollment in a tax savings program, states can achieve these objectives. Again, with the exception of the three (3) states not participating, a "no" answer in this column indicates no management plan is required.

New York Problems: Our statute requires management plans that are too labor intensive, require intensive re-inspections and are inflexible with respect to unforeseen future events and circumstances. This is often a prohibitive burden for one considering entry into the Program since decertification and the incumbent penalties can result from failure to follow precisely the management plan's requirements. Further, with continuing cutbacks in the Department of Environmental Conservation service forestry program, a tremendous strain is placed on the DEC forestry personnel with even small program increases straining finite resources.

Suggested reforms: Continue to require a management plan but reduce the mandatory timber stand improvement (to voluntary TSI) or tie into FLEP or other cost share program, reduce re-inspections to mandatory harvest times or other minimal standard.

"MINIMUM TERM" (COLUMN FIVE) – Indicates whether or not states require a minimum term of years for participation in their forestry program.

New York Problems: A minimum term is not unreasonable if withdrawal penalties are reasonable.

Suggested reforms: None, if penalties are lessened and risk of accidental withdrawal reduced.

"ACREAGE REQUIREMENTS" (COLUMN SIX) – Indicates whether there is a minimum or maximum acreage requirement to participate in the program.

New York Problems: New York now requires a fifty (50) acre contiguous fully forested parcel to participate. According to the chart, this is the highest minimum acreage total required. Some states have as low as one acre as a requirement. Many states have no requirement whatsoever. When compared to the higher assessed-value parcel designation of "forestland" as recommended by the Office of Real Property Services in the State of New York of forest parcels starting at twenty-five (25) acres, it is unfair that you can be taxed at higher assessment but not be eligible for New York's forest tax abatement program!

Suggested reforms: Reduce minimum acreage requirements to twenty-five (25) acres or less.


"CHANGE OF USE PENALTY" (COLUMN SEVEN) – Indicates if states have a change of use penalty. While many states do impose a penalty for change of use, normally the penalties are in the nature of rollback penalties designed to recapture previously saved taxes under the enrollment program.

New York Problems: Without a doubt, New York has the most draconian penalties of any state, which is the primary reason the enrollment under our forest tax incentive law is the lowest in the country.

Suggested reforms: Greatly reduce the penalties for withdrawal from the Program. Possible suggested penalties would be a requirement to pay back taxes, dollar for dollar for each tax dollar saved or perhaps a three (3) year rollback, plus an additional amount equal to six (6%) percent of the yield tax on the standing timber that would have gone to the communities had the property stayed within the Program. This would provide an equal balance between incentivizing continued forest stewardship and reducing the incentive to land bank forestland with tax abatements while waiting for land values to appreciate.

Conclusion

When we fit the New York statutory scheme into what other states are doing, it is clear that many of the same features we have in New York are utilized by other states. However, the excesses of the New York statute become more apparent when we compare them to the majority of other

states' statutory schemes. In addition, the extremely low enrollment rate for the New York Program clearly shows that it is not an effective incentive to the preservation of forestlands. Hopefully, this article and the attached chart will provide guidance as to how we might change, for the better, our forest tax incentive statute. 

This article was prepared by David J. Colligan, a partner in the Buffalo law firm, WATSON, BENNETT, COLLIGAN, JOHNSON & SCHECHTER, L.L.P., who has based this article on an earlier article he wrote for the *Denver University Law Review*, Volume 78, Number 3, published in 2001, entitled "Forestland Taxation in the New Millennium: Stewardship Incentivized". Comments may be sent to the author at dcolligan@watsonbennett.com or he can be reached at 716-852-3540.

Forest Tax Laws of all 50 States

STATE	FOREST CLASS OR CURRENT USE YES/NO	SEVERANCE TAX UNIT OR %/NO	FOREST OWNER OPTION YES/NO	MANAGEMENT PLAN REQUIRED YES/NO	MINIMUM TERM #OF YRS. /NO	ACREAGE REQUIREMENT MAX. OR MIN./NO	CHANGE USE PENALTY YES/NO
ALABAMA	YES	UNIT	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES
ALASKA	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
ARIZONA	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
ARKANSAS	YES	UNIT	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
CALIFORNIA	YES	2.90%	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES
COLORADO	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	≥ 40 AC.	NO
CONNECTICUT	YES	2 - 10%	YES	NO	10 YR.	≥ 25 AC.	YES
DELAWARE	YES	NO	YES	YES	2 YR.	≥ 10 AC.	YES
FLORIDA	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO
GEORGIA	YES	UNIT	YES	NO	10 YR.	≥10≤2000	YES
HAWAII	YES	NO	YES	YES	20 YR.	≥ 10 AC.	YES
IDAHO	YES	3%	YES	YES	10 YR.	≥5≤5000	YES
ILLINOIS	YES	4%	YES	YES	2 YR.	NO	NO
INDIANA	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	≥ 10 AC.	NO
IOWA	YES	NO	YES	NO	8 YR.	≥ 2 AC.	YES
KANSAS	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	≥ 10 AC.	NO
KENTUCKY	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	≥ 10 AC.	NO
LOUISIANA	YES	2.5 - 5%	YES	YES	NO	≥ 3 AC.	NO
MAINE	YES	NO	YES	YES	10 YR.	≥ 10 AC.	YES
MARYLAND	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	≥ 5 AC.	NO
MASSACHUSETTS	YES	5%	YES	YES	10 YR.	≥ 10 AC.	YES
MICHIGAN	YES	5%	YES	YES	NO	≥ 20 AC.	YES
MINNESOTA	YES	2.0 - 10%	YES	YES	6 YR.	≥ 5 AC.	YES
MISSISSIPPI	YES	UNIT	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
MISSOURI	YES	6%	YES	NO	NO	≥ 20 AC.	YES
MONTANA	YES	UNIT	NO	NO	NO	≥ 15 AC.	NO
NEBRASKA	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
NEVADA	YES	NO	YES	NO	3 YR.	≥ 7 AC.	YES
NEW HAMPSHIRE	YES	10%	YES	YES	NO	≥ 10 AC.	YES
NEW JERSEY	YES	NO	YES	YES	2 YR.	≥ 5 AC.	YES
NEW MEXICO	YES	1/8th%	YES	NO	1 YR.	≥ 1 AC.	NO
NEW YORK	YES	6%	YES	YES	10 YR.	≥ 50 AC.	YES
NORTH CAROLINA	YES	6%	YES	YES	4 YR.	≥ 20 AC.	YES
NORTH DAKOTA	YES	NO	YES	YES	5 YR.	≥ 5 AC.	NO
OHIO	YES	NO	YES	YES	3 YR.	≥ 10 AC.	YES
OKLAHOMA	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO
OREGON	YES	UNIT	YES	YES	NO	≥ 10 AC.	YES
PENNSYLVANIA	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	≥ 10 AC.	YES
RHODE ISLAND	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	≥ 10 AC.	YES
SOUTH CAROLINA	YES	UNIT	YES	NO	NO	≥ 5 AC.	YES
SOUTH DAKOTA	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
TENNESSEE	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	≥ 15 AC.	YES
TEXAS	YES	NO	YES	NO	5 YR.	NO	YES
UTAH	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	≥ 5 AC.	YES
VERMONT	YES	NO	YES	YES	10 YR.	≥ 25 AC.	YES
VIRGINIA	YES	UNIT	YES	YES	NO	≥ 20 AC.	YES
WASHINGTON	YES	5%	YES	YES	10 YR.	≥ 5 AC.	YES
WEST VIRGINIA	YES	3.22%	YES	YES	5 YR.	≥ 10 AC.	YES
WISCONSIN	YES	5%	YES	YES	25 YR.	≥ 10 AC.	YES
WYOMING	YES	NO	NO	NO	2 YR.	NO	NO

Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP)

TOM CUTTER

Background

Owners of private, non-industrial forest lands who wish to carry out sustainable forestry practices on their properties may be eligible for financial assistance through the Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP). FLEP is authorized by the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, as amended by the Farm Security & Rural Reinvestment Act of 2002. The Program provides federal financial assistance to State Foresters to promote sustainable forestry practices on eligible private, non-industrial forest lands throughout much of the State by providing technical, educational and financial assistance. In New York, NYFOA and Cornell University are cooperating with the State Forester (DEC) in providing these forms of assistance.

Eligibility

FLEP cost share assistance is currently available to owners of private, non-industrial forest properties throughout the State. Cost share and technical assistance is also available for privately owned, non-industrial forest lands located in the New York City Watershed area in the Catskills. Landowners do not have to reside on their forest lands in order to qualify for cost share assistance under these programs.

Cost share assistance is available to qualified private owners of non-industrial forest lands for preparation of a Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan for their forest property. Property owners who already have an up-to-date Stewardship Plan, may be eligible to receive financial assistance to implement sustainable forestry practices recommended in their Plan. Cost share covers 50% or 75% of actual costs, depending on the FLEP practice performed.

In general, a landowner is eligible to receive FLEP cost share assistance for implementation of authorized sustainable practices on property containing at least 5 continuous acres of land either in forest cover or suitable for forest growth. Cost share assistance for implementation of sustainable practices is limited to 50 acres annually per property. There is a 1000 acre limit for the preparation of new or revised Forest Stewardship Plans. Program participants may not receive more than \$5,000 in FLEP cost share payments annually or \$25,000 through year 2007 of New York's program. To be eligible for cost share assistance under the Program, a landowner must agree to prepare or revise their Stewardship Plan, if needed, install eligible practices by a given date, and maintain installed practices for 10 years.

Sustainable Practices Eligible For FLEP Cost Share

In this first year of FLEP, New York State has allocated \$397,862 in cost share funding throughout the State. Cost share assistance is available for:

- Preparation of new, or updating of existing, Forest Stewardship Plans;
- Afforestation and reforestation;
- Forest stand improvement, including tree designation, cull tree and grapevine removal, thinnings, and crop tree release;
- Water quality improvement and watershed protection, including forest access corridor design and layout, installation of best management practices, vegetative stabilization of forest stream banks, and seeding of critical areas;
- Fish and wildlife habitat improvement;
- Forest health and protection;
- Invasive species control;
- Fire and catastrophic event rehabilitation.

Accomplishments Pending in the First Year of FLEP

In the first four months of the Program's operation, about three quarters of the funds available for cost share have been obligated to 245 private forest property owners. Over a third of applicants will implement stand improvement practices on their

Participation in FLEP Cost Share Assistance

<u>Hi Priority Practices</u>	<u>Percentage of Requests Received (as of 1/04)</u>
Forest Stewardship Plans	25%
Forest Stand Improvement	54%
Water Quality Protection	9%
<u>Medium Priority Practices</u>	
Reforestation	5%
Fish & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement	6%
Invasive Species Control	1%

The 245 applications approved for FLEP cost share funding to date will, collectively, result in the following outcomes upon implementation of the approved practices:

FLEP Practice Number	Description of Practice	Extent of Practice Implementation To Date
1	Forest stewardship planning	91 plans
2	Tree planting Site preparation for natural seeding	57 acres 50 acres
3	Cull tree & grapevine removal & weeding Crop tree release Tree designation for stand improvement Thinning	108 acres 42 acres 953 acres 1,352 acres
5	Forest access corridor design and layout Best management practices (BMP)	7310 lineal feet 37 locations
6	Wildlife habitat enhanced	1,941 acres
8	Invasive species control	46 acres


forest properties, and about a quarter will prepare a new, or revised, Forest Stewardship Plan.

So far this year, FLEP cost share is enabling:

- preparation and updating of Forest Stewardship Plans covering nearly 10,000 acres of forest land;
- commercial and non-commercial forest stand improvement on over 1,350 acres;
- installation of forestry best management practices on 37 locations;
- invasive species control on 46 acres.

Seventy-two percent of available FLEP funds have been obligated to 245 applications that, collectively, will result in implementation of 358 individual practice components. Requests from forest owners and approvals issued by DEC Service Representatives have been consistent with the priorities for use of funds established in the requisite State Priority Plan for the implementation of FLEP.

Interested?

Further information concerning opportunities for assistance from FLEP may be obtained by contacting a DEC Service Forester at your local DEC Regional Forestry Office. 

Tom Cutter has been retained by NYFOA to act as the Disbursement Administrator for the FLEP and Highlands programs funded by the USDA Forest Service.

NYFOA Scholarship Fund

As of February 1, 2004, the NYFOA Endowed Scholarship Fund that is administered by the SUNY ESF College Foundation, Inc. has a fund balance of \$23,685.06

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Insect Growth and Development – strange but true!

DOUGLAS C. ALLEN

Over the past several years, I have used a number of terms in my articles that may have been confusing and made little sense to readers unfamiliar with insect life. It occurred to me a little basic entomology might clarify some ambiguities and, hopefully, help readers to better understand the world of insects.

Most insects experience remarkable changes in appearance as they proceed from the egg to the adult stage. As a

matter of fact, there often appears to be little in common between the immature stage and the resulting adult. In order to reach the adult stage, all but the most primitive of insects must pass through several changes in form as they grow. This change in form with growth is called **metamorphosis** (meta-more-fo-sis), a developmental process that can take one of three configurations depending on the evolutionary status of an insect group.

The most evolutionarily advanced insects are called **holometabolous** (hoe-low-meh-tab-oh-lus), because they undergo what is called a “complete” form of metamorphosis. This type of development is characterized by four life stages (fig. 1A); **egg**, **larva** (the insect at this point is said to be in the larval stage), **pupa** (pupal stage), and **adult**. Holometabolous insects have an immature stage that differs very much from the adult in both appearance (Fig. 2) and habits. Think of a maggot vs. the fly or a white grub vs. the beetle, for example. Many of our most common insects such as moths, butterflies, beetles, and wasps fall into this group. Another characteristic associated with the “advanced” nature of holometabolous insects is their sophisticated behavior relative to species that undergo more primitive types of metamorpho-

sis. Traits such as incredibly efficient host-finding mechanisms, the ability to build a “nest,” gregarious habits, or division of labor typical of colonial living, such as occurs with many species of ants, bees and termites, are just a few examples.

Pronunciation:

Larva (lar-vah), larvae (lar-vee), larval (lar-vull)

Pupa (pew-pah), pupae (pew-pea).

Pupal (pew-pull)

Insects that undergo the other common type of metamorphosis have three life stages (Fig. 1B); **egg**, **nymph** and **adult**. Examples include the familiar aphid, grasshopper, cricket, stink bug, and cockroach, all of which undergo what is called an “incomplete” form of metamorphosis. These insects are said to be **hemimetabolous**. The immature stages (nymphs) very much resemble the adult in appearance, except they are smaller, sexually immature and their wings are not fully developed (Fig. 3). Also, unlike a larva, the nymph usually occupies the same habitat as the adult and has similar feeding habits.

Insect growth occurs only in the larval or nymphal stages. In other words, little flies do not become big flies and so on! Each stage or step during the growth of the immature is referred to as an **instar**. Both the larval stage of the moth and the nymphal stage of the spittlebug illustrated in Figure 1 are said to have five instars. When an insect moves from one instar to another it must shed its old “skin” (called the **exoskeleton**) and create a

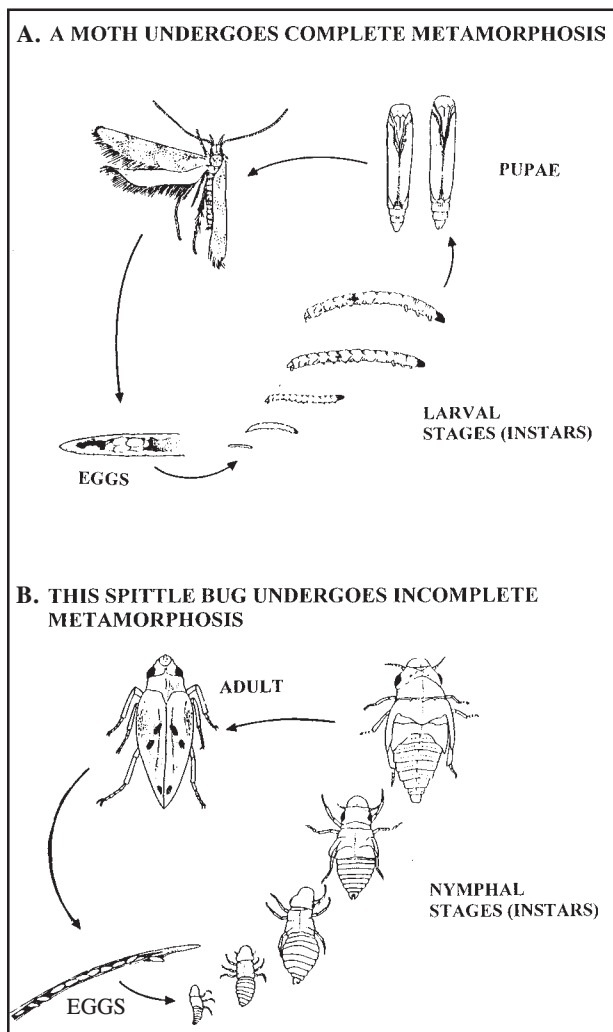


Figure 1. Life stages associated with complete (A) and incomplete (B) types of metamorphosis.

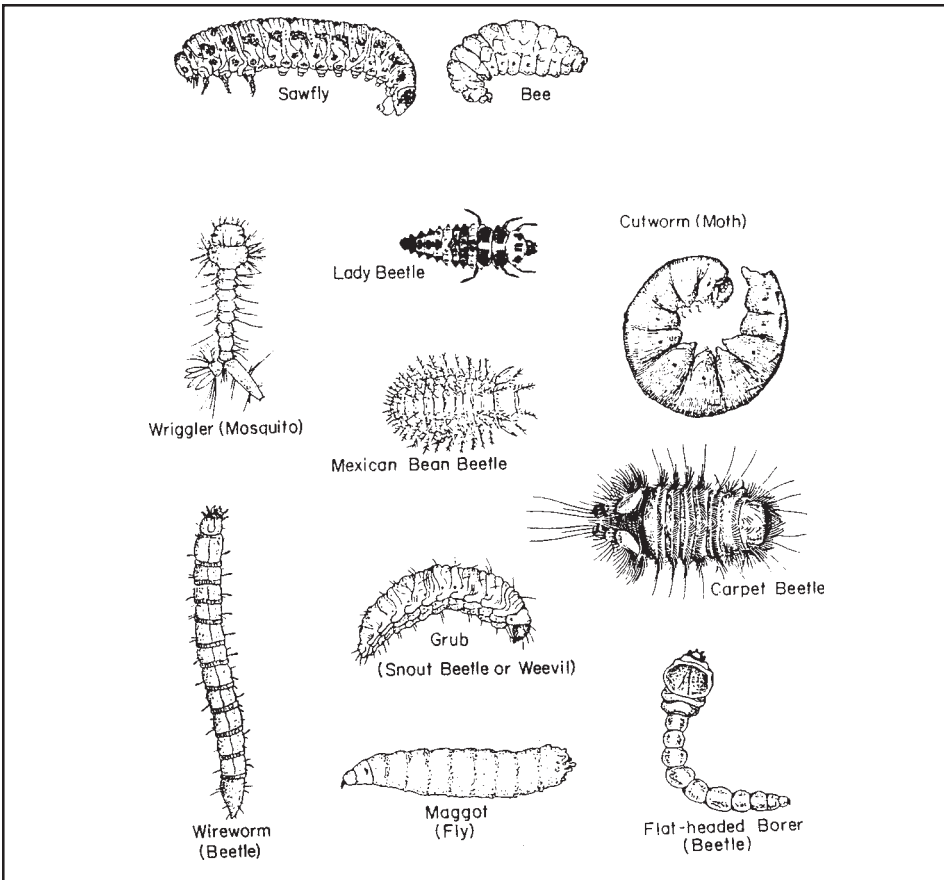


Figure 2. Examples of different larval types associated with holometabolous insects.

new one. Before the new exoskeleton hardens it is stretched by muscle action and hydraulic pressure generated by body fluids within the insect. Shortly thereafter the old "skin" is sloughed off, the new structure hardens and the insect resumes feeding for a time before it goes through this **molting** process again. The number of instars and the number of days spent in each instar varies with the species of insect.

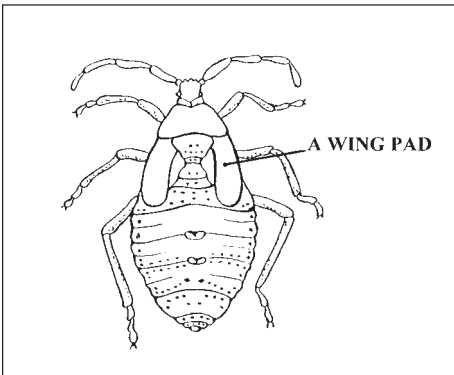


Figure 3. This nymph looks much like the adult except it is smaller and wings are not fully developed.

Wings develop externally in a hemimetabolous insect (Fig. 3, wing pad) and internally if the insect is holometabolous; e.g., one can not see evidence of wing development on a caterpillar, a wasp larva or beetle grub. The purpose of the pupal stage is to allow for the development of adult features, such as antennae, legs and wings. The two most common types of pupae are illustrated in Fig. 4. The principle difference is that the adult appendages on type (A) are not fused to the body. This is typical of most holometabolous species. Type (B), where the appendages are fused to the body, is typical of moths and butterflies. Depending on the species of insect, either type of pupa may be enclosed in a protective case called a **cocoon**. This structure can be made of many materials such as silk, silk mixed with soil particles or leaf litter, or wood chips. The pupal stage is immobile (though it may wiggle) and does not feed. It is simply a stage where


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major transformations occur which are necessary to convert the larval form to an adult.

Understanding metamorphosis in general, and the process of molting in particular, has proven valuable from a **pest management** standpoint. Specific chemicals involved in these transformations have been identified and are now used to disrupt the chain of events that lead from the egg to the adult stage for certain insect pests. In many cases these materials are very specific to the insect and do not affect other organisms. They comprise one of many contemporary pest control options that are helping us to get away from reliance on synthetic organic insecticides. 

This is the 73rd in the series of articles contributed by Dr. Allen, Professor of Entomology at SUNY-ESF. It is possible to download this collection from the NYS DEC Web page at: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dlf/privland/forprot/health/nyfo/index.html>.

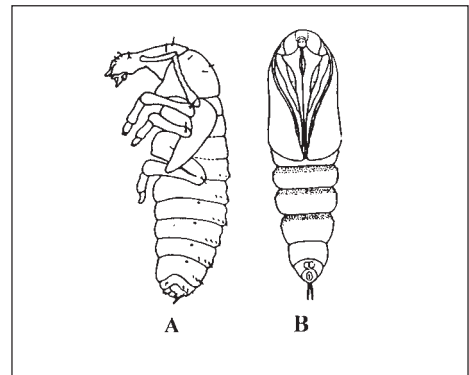


Figure 4. Two common types of pupae, A – appendages free (not fused to the body) and B – appendages fused to the body.

Woodlot Calendar

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. Cost for the 2 day session including reference materials and lunches is \$120. Registration is required. For more information contact Marshall Patmos, UNH Cooperative Extension, 800 Park Ave, Keene, NH 03431 (603) 352-4550, marshall.patmos@unh.edu

April 8, 2004 (*Thursday*)
Timber Harvesting in the Finger Lakes: What Forest Owners Should Know

7:00 - 9:00 PM, Yates County Building Auditorium, Penn Yan, NY

Landowners and community leaders are invited to learn about recent trends in timber harvesting, including sustainable and unsustainable practices on private land. Cornell Cooperative Extension will provide guidance and advice for forest owners who are contemplating a timber sale. Speakers will emphasize measures to protect water quality during logging operations, considering the unique features of the Finger Lakes landscape. Free and open to the public.

Please pre-register by calling CCE - Schuyler County at (607) 535-7161 or e-mail schuyler@cornell.edu.

April 17, 2004 (*Saturday*)
Capital District Chapter Bird Habitat Woodwalk

8:00 am, Old Chatham, Columbia County.
Free. For reservations contact Renee Bouplan, Columbia Land Conservancy, (518) 392-5252 ext. 208 or renee@clctrust.org.

April 20, 2004 (*Tuesday*)
Timber Harvesting in the Finger Lakes: What Forest Owners Should Know

7:00 - 9:00 PM, Jordan Hall, NYS Agriculture Experiment Station, Geneva, NY
(Repeat of April 8 program). Please pre-register by calling CCE - Schuyler County at (607) 535-7161 or e-mail schuyler@cornell.edu.

April 25, 2004 (*Sunday*)

Basic Chainsaw Operation 1:00 P.M.— 6:30 P.M., Rt. 96 Power and Paddle, 1035 Owego Road (Route 96) Candor, NY in Tioga County. For new and experienced chainsaw users. Covers general chainsaw operation and maintenance, sharpening and lubrication, demonstrations of notch and back cut techniques, safety apparel, and safety tips. Class size limited. Fee is \$40 per person; \$30 for NYFOA members. Refreshments served. Please bring a hard hat and dress for outdoor woodland walking during the class. To register, send a check made payable to "NYFOA-SFL" to Chainsaw Operation Class, 793 VanBuskirk Gulf Rd., Newfield, NY 14867. This class information is being provided to promote woodland safety. No endorsement is intended. Please direct questions about the class to Jim Signs at Power and Paddle, (607) 659-7693.

April 28, 2004 (*Wednesday*)

Timber Harvesting in the Finger Lakes: Information for Local Government Officials Workshop and Timber Harvest Tour

10 AM - 2:30 PM, Rural Urban Center Auditorium, Montour Falls, NY

Municipal officials, code enforcement, legislators, town council members and foresters can learn about and visit a forest with recent logging activity to learn what measures should be taken to protect water quality during logging operations. Presentations by Cornell Cooperative Extension State Forester Peter Smallidge and Natural Resources Specialist Jim Ochterski. Lunch and bus tour to private forested land with recent and pending timber harvests. Free and open to the public.

Please pre-register by calling CCE - Schuyler County at (607) 535-7161 or e-mail schuyler@cornell.edu.

May 1, 2004 (*Saturday*)

Forest Management Field Day – Tools, Techniques and Resources

8:30 A.M. –4:00 P.M.

Agro-forestry Resource Center, Acra (Greene County). \$20 for individual, \$15 each additional family member. Includes lunch and materials.

Woodlot Calendar (con't)

Designed for new forest owners as well as seasoned woodland managers. Sponsored by Capital District Chapter and a partnership of federal, state and county agencies and organizations, and forestry equipment providers. For more information and registration contact Renee Bouplan, Columbia Land Conservancy, (518) 392-5252 ext. 208 or renee@clctrust.org.

May 15, 2004 (Saturday)

Game of Logging 1 for Private Forest Owners

8:00 A.M.—4:30 P.M., Arnot Forest on Jackson Hollow Road (Schuyler County Route 13), 1 mile north of NY Route 224 between Cayuta and Van Etten, NY.

Possible repeat class May 16, 2004 depending on registration. For forest owners interested in how to fell trees safely and efficiently. How to maintain your chain saws' edges for productive work; Where and how to notch a tree for directional felling; Using wedges and working safely alone; Includes extensive hands-on practice cutting trees with your own equipment. Participants must bring their own lunch, chain saw, and all available safety equipment — helmet, ear/eye protection, boots, gloves, and chaps. Entire class is outdoors, rain or shine. Only 10 participants per class, so register early! Call (607) 535-7161 to register or for more information. Co-hosted by New York Forest Owners Association—Southern Finger Lakes Chapter and Cornell Cooperative Extension. Fee is \$130 per person; \$80 for NYFOA members.

July 10, 2004 (Saturday)

Summer Woods Walk – Southern Finger Lakes Chapter

Come learn about Tree Identification, Woodland Management, and more from a New York Master Forest Owner. Details coming soon. No fee for this event. To get on the notification mailing list, send a postcard or letter to: Tim Levatich, 222 Bailor Rd., Brooktondale, NY 14817

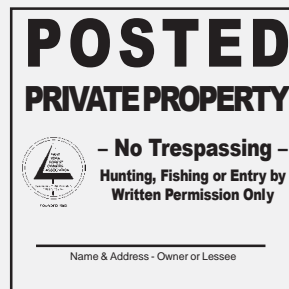
October 9, 2004 (Saturday)

Autumn Field Day and Workshop – Southern Finger Lakes Chapter

Details coming soon. To get on the notification mailing list, send a postcard or letter to: Tim Levatich, 222 Bailor Rd., Brooktondale, NY 14817

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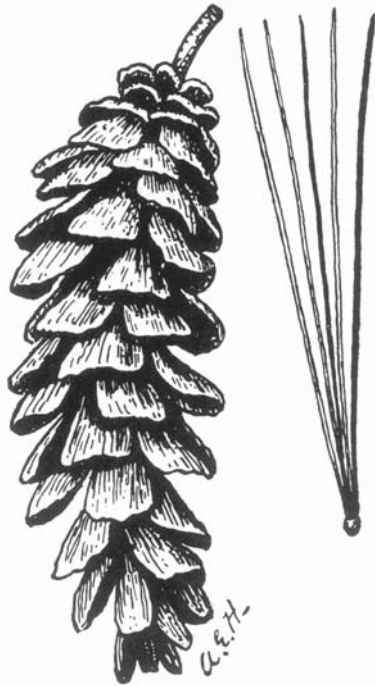
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* Minimum order is 50 signs with additional signs in increments of 25.

** 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).

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The funds obtained thereby will be dedicated to enhancing areas that will become an improved environment for wildlife and/or improve or provide access for people to recreate. The properties considered can be privately owned or publicly managed by state or local governments or not-for-profit institutions.

Ranking criteria for either habitat and/or access projects are drafted and will be applied initially by the DEC Regional Offices in cooperation with the Regional Fish and Wildlife Management Boards to whom projects are submitted. The Projects are forwarded by the Regional Boards to the State Fish and Wildlife Management Board to be reviewed and prioritized. A final Habitat/Access Selection Board whose members are



drawn from landowner, sportsman, conservation and environmental associations will select the best projects to be considered. It is expected that some projects may have matching funds from federal, state or local governments or private sources. The point system criteria include considerations for parcel size, current accessibility, cost, endangered species, numerous ecological factors

continued on page 22



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(wetlands, riparian, etc.), handicap accessibility, multi-use potential, ownership (privately owned has the highest number of points), and educational factors.


After a year and a half and at the end of 2003, the Habitat/Access Account contained \$75,000.00. Despite limited publicity, directed primarily at sportsman, it is a start and when the program is mature, it will deliver on its promise.

Owners wishing to submit projects may send a description to their local DEC Office for consideration.

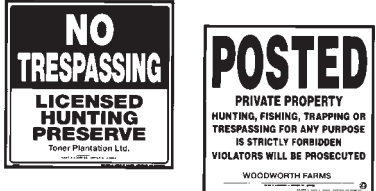
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Dick Fox is the landowner Representative for Cayuga County to both the NYSDEC Fish and Wildlife Management Board and the NYSDEC Forest Practice Board.

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MAGAZINE DEADLINE

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

Deadline for material is April 1, 2004.



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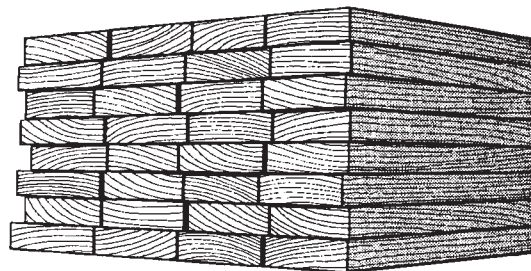
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