

The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

July/August 2004



Building and Using an ATV Log Cart

Volume 42 Number 4



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**THE NEW YORK
FOREST OWNERS
ASSOCIATION**

Volume 42, Number 4

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**The New York
Forest Owner**

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COVER: Image shows an ATV pulling an ATV log cart with a 12.5 foot spruce log being towed, as well as the barn the wood and log cart helped to construct. For full story on an ATV Log cart see page 6. Photo courtesy of Richard Starr.

From The President

Patience is Rewarded

Good Morning! I have spent most of my life selling cheese and ice cream. It has been fun and rewarding (and tasty too!). Outside of that career however I have two great interests that intrigue me and consume more and more of my time. One is the out of doors, wildlife, weather, swamps, oceans, rivers, plants, and my beautiful forestland. The other is financial management and investing. These two worlds seem far apart, yet with some perspective they are very similar!



Whether it is investing for the first time, planting seedlings, or your first timber stand improvement,

the task can seem almost insurmountable. How can a measly \$2,000 IRA investment lead me to becoming a MILLIONAIRE when I retire? (Oh Lord the sea is so large and my boat is so small) The same can be said for holding a tiny nine inch seedling in your hand and trying to imagine a mighty Red Oak or a magnificent White Pine!

The key to both is having a long term plan that you can stick to and the commitment to begin NOW! With money management the goal is often a comfortable retirement after a 40 or 50 year career. While 40 or 50 years seems like an eternity to many, the patience required in developing a beautiful, sustainable forest is even greater. I wish I had a nickel for every time one of my friends or fellow NYFOA members have said to me "I probably won't see the fruits of my labors in these woods but my kids and grandkids will!"

Just as it seemed almost impossible that beginning with a \$2,000 investment back in the early 80's, and adding a like amount each year until retirement, you could generate a million dollars or more. It seems equally unlikely that those 9 inch seedlings will mature into a wonderful, valuable forest. But it happens regularly and it happens sooner that you think! I was given a great visual reminder of this last week when I found some pictures from my cottage taken in 1991. Those Austrian pines only 6 feet tall at the time, and today only 13 years later, they are 25 feet tall, thick and green and providing the visual and wind block I had hoped for...it seems like just yesterday that they were planted, and today they are stunning!

I'm not attempting to give you financial advice here (although investments in timberland by wealthy investors, college endowments, and especially pension investors have become very common in the past 20 years), but what I am hoping for is that you will start thinking today about what you want for the future of your forest and woodlands and start acting tomorrow. You will be amazed at how soon you will begin to see the differences. The final goal for your woodland may not be achieved overnight or even in your lifetime, yet the satisfaction of working toward that end may be reward enough. And if it gives you an opportunity to get your kids and grandkids into the learning mode....what a great legacy you will create.

Well, my seedlings are growing, my forest canopy is growing tighter again and needs more thinning—lots to do and so little time and my grandsons can't wait to help. Life is good!!

—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:

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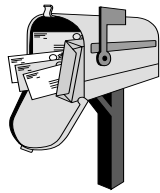
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In The MAIL



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via e-mail at mmalmshe@syr.edu

Timber Theft

A court in Steuben County has ordered a woodland owner to make restitution of \$42,561.96 to his neighbor for the authorized theft of approximately 173

trees having a fair market appraised stumpage value of \$14,187.32, an indication the long awaited legislation is effective.

—J.L. Pitt
Bath, NY

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NYFOA Scholarship Fund

As of June 1, 2004, the NYFOA Endowed Scholarship Fund that is administered by the SUNY ESF College Foundation, Inc. has a fund balance of \$24,358.79.

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HOW TO: *Understand the Timberland Appraisal Process*

STEVE WILENT

How much is your forestland worth? How much will you pay for your next timberland acquisition? Landowners and foresters often need to determine the value of their or their clients' holdings. Many consulting foresters provide appraisal services to individuals and corporations. Professional appraisers, who usually have expertise in real estate or business investment appraisal and in forestry, offer specialized services to landowners, forest managers, and timberland investment management organizations that make investments on behalf of pension and endowment funds.

An appraisal may be needed for tax purposes, to establish collateral value for a loan, to determine the value of a property for sale or when a property is transferred as part of an estate or divorce settlement, or in the analysis of timberland acquisitions for investments. An appraiser may simply calculate the current market value of a single parcel of timberland or compute the rate of return on an investment in a portfolio of geographically diverse holdings over decades.

At either end of the spectrum, says Richard W. Courter, a forester and owner of GeneTechs, a forestry consulting firm in Portland, Oregon, appraisers must have solid timber-cruising, mapping, and other forestry field skills. An accurate appraisal, he says, is based on good data.

"I have lost appraisal jobs because of that philosophy," says Courter, who focuses on relatively small properties. "Other appraisers came in at a much lower rate, because they weren't going to put as many plots out in the field. They might spend a half-day in the field, while I would have spent two days to get a more thorough cruise."

Appraisers use one or more of three methods:

- *Component valuation:* The appraiser calculates the value of each separate component of the property and then adds the values together.

- *Sale comparison:* An appraiser evaluates the sales of similar properties to arrive at an estimate of the market value of the subject property. Appraisers make adjustments for time, size, amount, and type of timber; the land's marketability; and other factors.

- *Income Projection:* An appraiser calculates the rate of return on an investment in timberland over time. Jeff Wikle is a long-time forester and member of the Appraisal Institute who specializes in forestland appraisals for large institutional investors.

"It is crucial in taxation and investment issues that the depletion accounts for all of the allocated components of timberland be established via some sort of credible appraisal process," says Wikle. Values are calculated for components such as standing timber, different types of land, water resources, mineral rights, roads, structures, and other improvements.

In projecting income for institutional investors, appraisers must base their calculations on a specific management plan.

"It's important that appraisers articulate to everybody involved just how we're going to produce that income," he says. "We tell investors that we'll spend, say, \$100 million on timberland, and we're going to hold that timberland for 15 years. We project timber sales and replanting and all silvicultural expenses. We calculate the value of the timber and the land at the end of 15 years and project that it can be sold at a certain price, and when we put it all together it shows that we expect to produce, say, an 8 percent return rate."

As part of projecting return rates,

appraisers of timberland must consider past forest management practices.

"What was the forest management philosophy on that property? Have they let it grow? Have they highgraded it? Have they done diameter-limit or stand-improvement cuts? Have they used fertilizer or post-harvest weed control? You may be looking at 30 or 40 or 50 years of management," says Wikle.

Courter says appraisers must also consider federal, state, and local forest practice laws, regulations, and zoning ordinances in assessing timberland.

"The basic assumption we have to make is that we can harvest every stick of wood on the property on the day we appraise it," says Courter. "But if you can't harvest everything on that day, how do you assign a value?"

Federal law requires state licensing of real estate appraisers, including those who specialize in timberlands. Organizations such as the Appraisal Institute promote professional ethics and adherence to standards of practice. Wikle says competent appraisal services are an integral part of long-term timberland management. ▲

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Introduction

Logging with an ATV has grown in popularity. It is a practical and fairly inexpensive alternative for the owner of a small wood lot.

I found myself in need of more storage and estimates for a new pole barn had me in sticker shock. The solution, I reasoned, was to buy a portable band sawmill and make my own lumber for a “do it yourself” project. A good supply of trees was available from fellow NYFOA members Dick Dennison and Dale Schaefer who accepted my help with some TSI work in their woods.

The term portable means the mill has wheels and can be transported. It does not mean the mill can be taken to every tree in the forest that’s a candidate for becoming boards. I had to find a way to move logs to the mill. The only machine I own that might do the job is an ATV.

The Cart

One day while winching my boat onto the trailer I realized I could replace the boat with a log and accomplish much the same thing. A 12 inch rubber roller on the back of the trailer eases the loading process. In essence, my log cart is a miniature boat trailer.

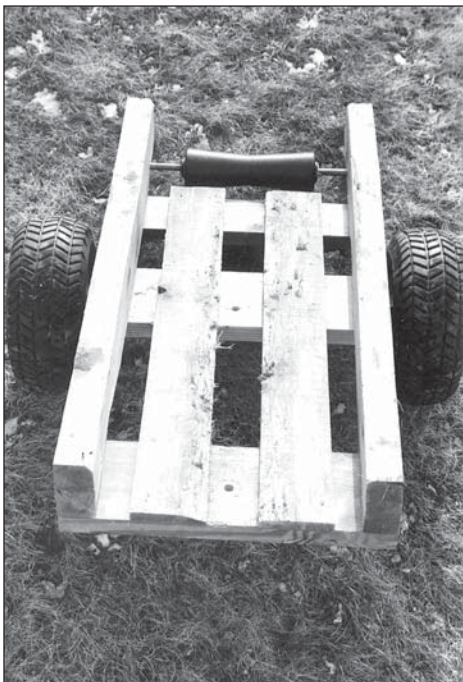


Figure 1: The cart is shown without the hand winch

ATV Log Cart

RICHARD R. STARR

Using the mill, I cut two pieces of hickory 3 inches wide by 5 inches high by 48 inches long. These became side rails and make a channel for the logs to ride in. I had a pressure treated 2x8 on hand and cut it into pieces 24 inches long. The 2x8 pieces were lag screwed to the hickory rails securing them in place and making the channel as seen in figure 1. A ½ inch diameter steel rod embedded in the hickory side rails serves as an axle for the rubber roller. Like a boat trailer, the roller surface should be slightly higher than the cart channel to help ease the log along while loading.

I also use hickory for the tongue and attach it to the cart body with two ½-inch bolts. The holes for attachment are visible in figure 1. This makes the tongue easily removable for transporting the cart. A trailer coupler on the tongue permits attachment to a 7/8 inch ball on the ATV draw bar. Also attached near the ATV end of the tongue is a 2000 pound dual drive hand winch for pulling logs onto the cart. See figures 2 and 3.

After some experimentation, I found the tongue length should be more than half the maximum log length. This allows for attachment to the cart and provides room for the trailer coupler and hand winch. It also allows the center of gravity of the log to be over the cart axle. My final version has a tongue 9 feet long since my mill can handle 16 foot logs.

Trailer couplers come in different throat widths. I selected 3 inches, the widest I could find. Since the tongue is wood, I wanted maximum width for the extra strength. Wood toughness became an issue after I used red pine for the first cart and it literally fell apart from

the stresses applied to it. The hickory has held up well and I would expect success with any hard wood.

I already owned two 15x6x6 pneumatic tires and rims that had seen duty on the front of a riding lawn tractor/mower. The rims have ¾ inch bearings so a piece of rolled steel of that diameter serves as an axle. Holes drilled in the axle permit cotter pins and washers to hold the rims in place. After some hefty logs turned the first axle into a smiley face, I had a section of angle iron welded to the replacement and have had no further problems. Holes in the angle iron also permit easy attachment to the 2x8 cross member.

Operation

When a log is limbed and ready for transport I position the rear of the cart near one end of the log and wrap a choker chain around the log. Enough cable is then pulled from the winch drum to reach the choker chain. The cart is now disconnected from the ATV and the tongue raised to about waist level. Winching in cable puts the rubber roller in contact with the log and I raise the tongue higher as in figure 2.

The winch is now several feet off the ground and an upward force is applied to the choker chain via the winch cable. The log usually hops up on the rubber roller. Continued cranking of the winch slowly pulls the log onto the cart. When the center of gravity of the log is over the axle the tongue has no apparent weight and the cart can be reattached to the ATV. Figure 2 shows the cart before I began using the longer 9 foot tongue.

I make any final adjustments, such as pulling the log farther onto the cart, and drive away. The tensioned winch cable on the choker chain secures the log to the cart tongue as see in figure 3. The side rails prevent the log from rolling off the cart or banging into the tires. Boards had to be added to the channel bed as seen in figure 1 because the choker chain kept catching the 2x8 cross members and stopping the log.

Upon arrival at the mill/staging area the cart can be backed up, if needed,



Figure 2: The author is shown using the hand winch

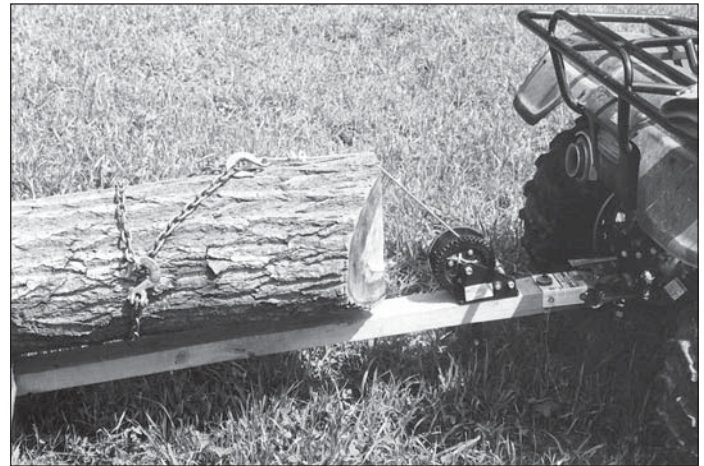


Figure 3: The tensioned winch cable on the choker chain secures the log to the cart tongue

before unloading the log. After positioning the cart where I want the log to be I loosen the winch cable and remove the choker chain. The choker chain is attached to the opposite end of the log and the log is pulled backwards on the rubber roller until the log end drops to the ground. Since the log is now resting on the roller, a quick push on the ATV accelerator and the cart rolls out from under the remainder of the log, dropping it to the ground.

The cart keeps the entire log off the ground during transport, permits backing up, and the log arrives at the mill as clean as it left the woods. Given the low center of gravity of the cart, I've had no problems with the cart and log rolling over. I do exercise caution and go slowly on steeper slopes.

Cost

One reason I needed more storage room is that I rarely throw anything away. I had tires/rims, a 12 inch rubber roller, winch cable and hook, angle iron and 7/8 inch trailer ball on hand. I purchased 3/4 inch and 1/2 inch steel bars, trailer coupler, winch, lag screws, nuts and bolts. I paid \$10 to have the angle iron welded to the 3/4 inch steel rod to stiffen the axle. I have approximately \$75 invested in the cart.

I recently received an advertisement for an ATV forwarding arch and shipping alone was \$160. That commercial arch dragged one end of the

log on the ground and it probably can't be backed up with the log attached.

Sources

I purchased the dual drive hand winch from Harbor Freight Tools (1-800-423-2567). It's item number 41694 and costs \$19.99. One catalog had them on sale for \$14.99. The winch comes without cable and hook. Harbor Freight pays shipping for orders over \$50.

The tires I'm using are available from Northern Tool and Equipment Co. (1-800-533-5545). They're item number 1353 and cost \$35.99 each. Northern also has a larger 18x850x8 tire with 1 inch bearing for \$47.99, item number 25207. However, dead and decaying riding mowers seem to be fairly common so scrounging could get tires/rims for free. The discard pile of a small engine/mower repair facility would be a likely place to look.

The trailer coupler can be found at auto supply stores. I've seen the 12 inch rubber rollers at Wal-Mart and K-Mart stores in the sporting goods department. The rollers would also be available from a boat supply store/marina as would a hand winch.

Conclusion

After using the cart to move some logs a friend stated, "This works the nuts!" My wife went with me to the woods one day and after seeing the logs I intended to move, asked how I planned to do it. After watching the cart in action she said, "Nobody would believe this unless they saw it."

The cart would be too slow for commercial logging but it is easy to use, gets into tight spaces and has done what I've asked of it. Since I have no other way of moving logs, the little cart has worked well for me. ▲

Richard R. Starr is Vice-Chairman of the Western Finger Lakes chapter of NYFOA. He resides in Macedon, NY.

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Ask A Professional

Landowner questions are addressed by foresters and other natural resources professionals. Landowners should be careful when interpreting answers and applying this general advice to their property because landowner objectives and property conditions will affect specific management options. When in doubt check with your regional DEC office or other service providers. Landowners are also encouraged to be active participants in Cornell Cooperative Extension and NYFOA programs to gain additional, often site-specific, answers to questions. To submit a question, email to Peter Smallidge at pjs23@cornell.edu with an explicit mention of "Ask a Professional." Additional reading on various topics is available at www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/forestrypage

QUESTION:

I want to self-harvest my marketable trees, accumulate them on a landing, and offer them for competitive bid. Is this a feasible plan? How long can the logs be accumulated before they degrade in value?

ANSWER:

Several things need to be considered before deciding if this is a feasible plan including personal safety, your skill level, available equipment, volume of logs, and local markets.

The first and most important thing is safety. Are you confident in your skills with the chainsaw and the skidding equipment? There is a big difference between cutting small firewood trees and felling large timber. Cutting big trees is dangerous, not to mention hard work. Loggers make it look easy but they are professionals and have had many years of training. No matter how much more money you think you can make, it is not worth your personal safety!

How are your felling skills? If you

fell a tree with a large crotch and it lands wrong it can easily crack from the top down. Even worse is if you don't notch and back cut correctly you can split the tree from the butt up. Not only is this a very dangerous situation but you also just wasted the most expensive part of the tree.

That big tree is on the ground. Now how are you going to get it out of the woods? Depending on the size of your equipment you may have to buck the log in the woods. If you cut it in the wrong spot you will dramatically affect its value. Some high quality logs should be left as long as possible, maybe 24 feet or longer. Can your equipment pull that much? Here again safety is of major concern—farm tractors and ATV's, if used improperly, can rollover causing serious injury.

You will need to make plans for a landing area, the size of which depends on the volume of logs. It is best to lay out all of the logs in a single layer. The buyers want to be



Sawlogs stacked at a landing ready to load on a log truck. Logs for sale to bidders would be spread apart to allow viewing by prospective buyers.

able to see all sides of the logs and this is especially true for high value logs. For these they will want enough room to be able to roll each log to make sure they are not missing anything. Keep in mind that the log trucks are heavy and the ground conditions must allow them to get in and out on their own.

How much volume is enough to bid out? That all depends on the quality of the logs and the current inventory of the mills. If you only have 3,000-9,000 board feet (1-3 loads) it will be tough to attract much interest. You might be better off to just get prices from one or two buyers. In the past we have bid out logs with total volumes ranging from 40,000 bf to over 165,000 bf. I'm not sure how much you could go below 40,000 bf and still attract enough attention.

Buyers do not want to hear that the logs were cut 4 months ago no matter the species or outside temperature. Of course any species (maple, white pine, etc.) that stain easily are going to spoil quickly during the heat of the summer. For this reason it would be best to cut those species during the winter. Darker wood can tolerate warmer conditions for longer periods, but there is a limit. The number of days or weeks is tough to say. There are many factors that affect this including temperature, humidity (is it a hot humid summer week?) and what species you are cutting (in the spring you can watch an ash log split itself into quarters).

As a general rule most of the people who would be interested in bidding on your standing timber will also be interested in your logs. Contact the NYS DEC for a list of buyers and check out the back pages of *The Northern Logger* to get more names. Local markets and traditions might not be accustomed to bidding logs it may depend where you live.

I hope I haven't scared you away from the idea. At Cotton-Hanlon our calculations show we have usually made more money bidding out the logs instead of the standing timber but



Logs are bucked (cut) to length at the landing or in the woods. Most mills want an extra 6 inches on each log, but check with prospective buyers before making any cuts.

not every time. One year we hit the market wrong and log prices were low. If those trees were still standing we could have put the sale off. The years where it did work out well, it was the value of the high grade logs

(veneer) that helped make the sale profitable.

Good luck. 🌲

*Bob O'Brien, SAF Certified Forester
Chief Forester Cotton-Hanlon, Inc.*



An example of checking (splitting) of an ash log immediately after bucking to length. Initial splits extended 12 to 18 inches into the log. Splitting is more common and extensive during spring and early summer.

Boonville Business on the Right Track

BY BRENDAN KELLY



Andy Kloster unloads hemlock pulp framed by red pine poles and a railroad car (temperatures were solidly below zero degrees F at 3B's woodyard in Boonville, NY). Image taken by B. Kelly

Rumors of log trucks pulling over for log buyers and drivers being offered money to take their loads to other mills. Railcars loaded with wood heading out of the Adirondack and Tug Hill Regions of New York State. Operators buying new equipment and suppliers trying to get iron from manufacturers, only being told to wait for months. Price wars for pulpwood. Firewood shortages. A telephone call for hemlock from Tennessee. What year is this?

This is 2003 and perhaps 2004. Conditions have changed. Using one of New York State's northern most counties as an example, hemlock was barely registering on the Summer 2003 New York State Stumpage Price Report in Saint Lawrence County. At end of 2003 it was reported that it was commanding up to \$20/cord on the high end. In the same county, hardwood cordwood values reported in July of 2003 ranged from \$3 - \$6/cord with an average of \$4/cord. As of this December reported values ranged from \$1 - \$21/cord with an average of \$9/

cord. If you toss out the \$1/cord as an abnormality the range is \$4 - \$21/cord. Of course all of these values need to be tempered with the knowledge that the above ranges and averages are based upon the number of individuals or businesses reporting prices. This was variable between 3 and 11 for the above data. The next scheduled New York State Stumpage Price Report will be published in July.

Wood shortages and higher prices have been reflected at the retail level. The *Daily Sentinel* of Rome, NY reported in November of last year that one firewood retailer in the Albany area stated that he raised his prices from \$15 or \$20 a cord to \$140 a cord. Is this the turnaround from the low-grade dilemma reported here in the *Northern Logger* and felt throughout many states? Some predicted this possible turnaround during 2002.

One of the companies that is helping to raise the price for cordwood, making it profitable again to harvest low-grade and increasing silvicultural options is a family run business in Boonville, New York. Actually, there are two family run forestry related businesses, started by three Bourgeois families in this town that has—for a

few more days at least—two major national, if not international wood product companies, a Baillie Lumber mill, and a scheduled to be closed Ethan Allen furniture plant. The first Bourgeois business is CJ Logging Equipment, Inc. started in 1981 and the second is 3B Timber, Inc. formed in 1987. Mark and Linda, Gary and Charlotte, and Stuart and Janet originally sold logging equipment as in the CJ name. They started out with six new chainsaws, and as they say, “they had no idea of how or where the money would come from to pay for them.” However, they slowly grew and with 3B Timber they decided to branch out and opened a pole peeling mill to supply red pine poles to utility pole companies.

Many wood product businesses have fallen near the Bourgeois' businesses. In January of 2001 the Lyons Falls Pulp and Paper mill, in operation since 1894 and once owned by the Georgia-Pacific Corporation, closed. This mill, approximately 10 miles from Boonville, was a major regional user of hardwood pulp. Then in March of 2001 the Deferiet Paper Company, the former Champion mill 45 miles away from Boonville in Deferiet, closed.

Selected Cordwood Stumpage Prices for Saint Lawrence County, NY

Average of most commonly reported prices outside of parentheses, range within parentheses. All prices are given in U.S. dollars per standard cord.

	January 2003	July 2003	January 2004
ASPEN	2 (0 - 5)	In sufficient data	4 (2-7)
BIRCH, WHITE	2 (2 - 5)	In sufficient data	10 (4-15)
HEMLOCK	3 (0 - 5)	11 (In sufficient data)	11 (4-20)
N. HARDWOODS	4 (0 - 6)	4 (3 - 6)	9 (1-21)
PINE	2 (0 - 5)	In sufficient data	6 (2-12)
SPRUCE & FIR	4 (3 - 30)	In sufficient data	7 (2-12)
FIREWOOD	6 (0 - 15)	5 (3 - 6)	9 (5-20)

All values taken from NYSDEC Stumpage Price Reports. Number of individuals or businesses reporting prices that the above ranges and averages are based upon is variable between 3 and 11.



L to R: Gary, Stuart, Janet, Mark, and Linda Bourgeois (missing Charlotte). Image taken by B. Kelly

Most recently a softwood pulping mill, this mill has reopened, with the new owners, using recycled paper pulp. However, they continue to have difficulty staying open. Then in 2001 Finch, Pruyn, and Company, a papermill in Glens Falls, shutdown their pulp mill switching to imported pulp. Another blow came in early 2002 when International Paper's Utica woodyard, a supply center for IP's Erie, Pennsylvania mill closed with the shuttering of the Erie mill. This yard supplied pulpwood by rail. Besides some smaller sawmills, pallet companies, and an a once inconsistent wood burning co-generation facility in Lyonsdale, a few miles upstream from Lyons Falls on the Moose River, many loggers' local markets were drying up fast in 2001-2002. Now with announced closure of Ethan Allen's Boonville facility, the mill praised in *Wood and Wood Products* May 1999 issue by Ethan Allen's chair and CEO while breaking ground on a \$7.6 million renovation at the plant, the Bourgeois' efforts to secure markets have become even more important to the local economy.

As loggers' markets were drying up the Bourgeois' businesses started to feel some of the market conditions. CJ Logging Equipment and 3B Timber had expanded every year since their inception. However, 2001 brought different news as the mills closed around them. Sales dropped to less

than 50% than in the previous year. Knowing that loggers that can't sell wood, won't need equipment or equipment repairs the Bourgeois' started to look for other options. Boonville and the Central to Northern New York Area was their home; not only were area loggers, landowners, foresters, and former mill workers their customers, they were their

neighbors. The area was definitely forest dependent.

There was the possibility of an oriented strand board plant that would use aspen and red (soft) maple opening near Ogdensburg, New York along the Canadian border. However, this possibility had been a possibility since 1999. Furthermore, government development groups had constantly been looking to lure new companies, increase the efficiency of established businesses, or supply outside companies with raw materials, yet nothing had produced a solid shot in the arm for the region.

The Bourgeois' ventured ahead after careful consideration and research. The

family decided that with the vast amount of raw material in the area combined with the remaining hard-working and industrious logging professionals it was worth the risk to take the time to explore the development of new markets. This effort was rewarded in March of 2003 when a need for hemlock pulp was found with a Weyerhaeuser mill in Pennsylvania. It was determined that with the railroad line that ran through 3B's woodyard, pulp could be efficiently hauled to Pennsylvania. The local short line company, the Mohawk, Adirondack, and Northern Railroad, part of the Genesee Valley Transportation System, was happy to help out with reasonable rates. They too were hurting with the loss of tonnage from the closing of the Lyons Falls Pulp and Paper mill. The only barrier at this point was obtaining enough rail cars to haul in an economical fashion. Units of 10 cars were the best for obtaining favorable freight rates.

Weyerhaeuser was a little unsure of bringing wood to Pennsylvania from Central and Northern New York via rail. However, after traveling to the area several times and discussing rates, raw materials, loggers, and regulations with the Bourgeois family and loggers, and the work of railway, New York State Division of Lands and Forests,

continued on page 12

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Another load of Tug-Hill low-grade hardwood bound for points south

Mohawk Valley Economic Development Growth Enterprises, and Adirondack North Country Association officials, as well as some local elected officials such as State Senator Meier, they have continued their relationship.

At first the effort was small. 3B didn't even have scales. Trucks needed to be weighed in at Barrett Paving Materials, a gravel, sand, and stone plant 3 miles away and then return to 3B's facility for payment. The Bourgeois' and Weyerhaeuser decided not to promote this new market too much to ensure they could successfully get the wood to the mill. As Weyerhaeuser increased their demand, 3B slowly promoted their new market.

As word got out that 3B was supplying Weyerhaeuser, 3B was contacted by International Paper's Ticonderoga facility located on the banks of Lake Champlain. After several meetings 3B entered into a 2-year contract to supply this mill with eight foot softwood and hardwood pulp shipped via truck and to ship long pulp by rail south to other facilities.

Other mills have contacted 3B regarding pulpwood and chip contracts, but a lack of a siding to handle 20 cars or more is hampering this operation. Although, in October of 2003, they began sending aspen pulp to another Weyerhaeuser facility in West Virginia by rail. However, this ar-

angement to ship to West Virginia fell apart due to a shortage of rail cars. 3B's future goals include constructing a siding and possibly a chip mill at their facility. Last winter scales were in the process of being installed.

As 3B's wood supply operations expanded in 2003 a small wrench was thrown into the works as Finch, Pruyn, and Company restarted their pulp mill after shutting it down approximately two years ago. A major user of hemlock, Finch was offering \$100-115 a cord at their gates to fill their woodyard. 3B was offering \$23 a ton which worked out to be about \$59 a cord and they raised their price to \$28 a ton in response to Finch's demand. This worked out to approximately \$71 a cord. Some loggers in Central New York, the Western Adirondacks and the Tug Hill Region decided to make the long haul to Finch and incur the costs with a drive across part of the state, while others opted to make a series of shorter trips to 3B with less travel costs with a lower per ton rate. The most recent price at 3B for hemlock has leveled out at \$25 a ton.

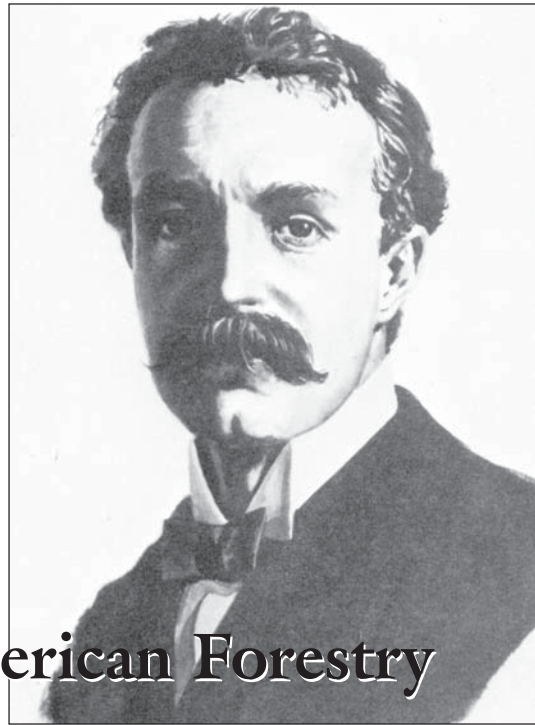
In the midst of the demand for pulp the once inconsistent wood burning cogeneration facility in Lyonsdale, a few miles upstream from Lyons Falls on the Moose River was purchased in May of 2003 by a Texas power company, NGP

Power Corp. The new owners paid off all the debts owed to their wood suppliers and raised the price they were willing to pay for mixed green chips. The new owners have displayed a commitment to running the mill and chip trucks have been seen rolling on the roads. With pulp moving again, other markets seem to be opening.

But, why has there been a resurgence in the domestic pulp market? As always there are several possible factors for the recent change in the market. There is the traditional reason that wet weather in the spring of 2003 slowed logging operations. However, the extreme wet weather in the Southeast for the past two years, forced loggers out of the woods when paper manufacturers needed the fiber. This occurred in the midst of a drop in the U.S. dollar forcing U.S. companies to use less imported kraft. Couple this with a need for loggers to put up pulp to fill the demand, only the number of loggers had decreased during the hardships of the previous years. Many have speculated 50% of the loggers are presently out of business. As loggers came back into the market, getting iron back into service, some decided to purchase equipment. Some manufacturers have had a hard time meeting the demand.

How long will this recent resurgence last. Nobody knows for sure. As with any business, boom and bust cycles are common in the logging industry. However, the Bourgeois' hope to keep loggers working in this part of New York for years many years to come, even without a local pulp mill and now with the closure of Ethan Allen's last New York mill. They need to and they want to do it. If you're wondering why the pulp mills and now a furniture mill have shutdown in this locale of New York State, well that's another story. 🌲

Brendan Kelly is a Senior Forester with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. He is assigned to Forest Product Utilization and Marketing concerns in NYSDEC Region 6 (Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, and Saint Lawrence Counties) and easement administration in the Central Tug Hill Region.



Two Heroes of American Forestry

THOM McEVoy

There are many villains and a few heroes of American forestry that have emerged since it arrived here at the beginning of the 20th century.

Virtually all of the villains are nameless, but the heroes reside in a thinly populated pantheon, well-known to those familiar with the evolution of forestry in North America. Given the task of naming the most historically significant of all those who have contributed to forestry over the past century, odds are most will name one or the other of only two people: Gifford Pinchot or Aldo Leopold.

Paradoxically, as different as night from day; one exerted influence by wielding power, the other ideas. One was born to privilege; the other earned it from his students. One—in the words of a political pundit (in reference to George Bush the elder)—“found himself standing on third base and thinks he hit a triple,” the other would have been satisfied simply to have watched the game. Like opposite sides of coin, the philosophies espoused by these two prophets of American forestry are as different as up from down, or right from left.

Pinchot was the utilitarian and ever the politician, Leopold the poet and academic. Their careers overlapped only briefly,

but neither ever mentions having met. Each having achieved his legacy by different means, it is a wonder how they became heroes among foresters of every ilk.

Pinchot was born during the last year of the Civil War to a wealthy family in Simsbury, Connecticut. He was extraordinarily well-educated, according to one source, with BA and Masters degrees from Yale, a Masters from Princeton, a Doctorate of Science from Michigan Agricultural College (where he was probably first exposed to ideas about “scientific forestry” from Europe), and no less than four Doctorates of Law from Yale, McGill, Pennsylvania Military College and Temple University.

In addition to these 20-plus years in universities of the Northeast, Gifford Pinchot is credited as the first American-born student to obtain formal training in forestry in 1890 by attending the National School of Waters and Forests in Nancy, France.

In the midst of his schooling, Pinchot offered services to woodland owners as a private consultant. His most famous client was the Biltmore family on whose land in North Carolina he completed the first comprehensive forest inventory and

management plan in the United States. The land was eventually made part of the Pisgah National Forest. In 1996 the U.S. Forest Service constructed the Cradle of Forestry Education Center on the site to commemorate the “birth of forestry” in the nation.

In 1900, Pinchot is credited with founding both the School of Forestry at Yale University and the Society of American Foresters, a professional organization that now represents about 17,000 foresters. It was a generous gift from the Pinchot family that funded the Yale School of Forestry, and the curriculum was allegedly dedicated to promoting Pinchot’s doctrine of “scientific management.”

Owing to his extensive education and, undoubtedly, family connections, Pinchot’s career was launched in 1896 when he was selected by the National Academy of Sciences to serve on a Forest Commission with the purpose of creating a reserve of public forest lands. At a time when “who you know” was worth far more than “what you know,” recognition of the Pinchot name probably had as much to do with his early exploits as his credentials.

Nevertheless, he was there at the

continued on page 14

beginning of forestry in North America and his efforts on the Forest Commission led to the Forest Reserve Act of 1897 which formalized the establishment of federal public forests and created an administration (within the U.S. Department of Agriculture) to manage them. He was also at the front of the line when the time came to appoint officers.

Sure enough, in 1898 he was appointed “Chief” of the USDA Division of Forestry, later named the Bureau of Forestry, then in 1905 the U.S. Forest Service. Despite agency name changes and major transfers of western forest and range lands from the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior to the Department of Agriculture, “Chief” Pinchot retained his title. To this day, the principal executive of the U.S. Forest Service assumes the title of “Chief,” and Gifford Pinchot is widely recognized as “Father of the U.S. Forest Service.” During Pinchot’s tenure—from 1898 to 1910—National Forests grew by more than 120 million acres, mostly due to inter-departmental transfers.

In 1910, Chief Pinchot was “dismissed” by the Taft administration. After, he founded—and funded—the National Conservation Organization and served as its president to further the cause of scientific forestry in the U.S. But in 1920 he went back into public service, this time in Pennsylvania where he served first as commissioner of the Department of Forestry, then briefly as secretary of the Department of Forests and Waters, before serving the first of two terms as governor.

During his varied career of public service, Pinchot authored many articles and speeches on the emerging practice of forestry and the need to conserve forests. He also wrote four books. The first, *A Primer on Forestry*, was published in 1899. His last and most well-known book, *Breaking New Ground* (1947), is an autobiography published a year after he died.

Gifford Pinchot was born into a privileged life. With an excellent education, family connections and money, virtually any career was available but he chose forestry. Most of what is known

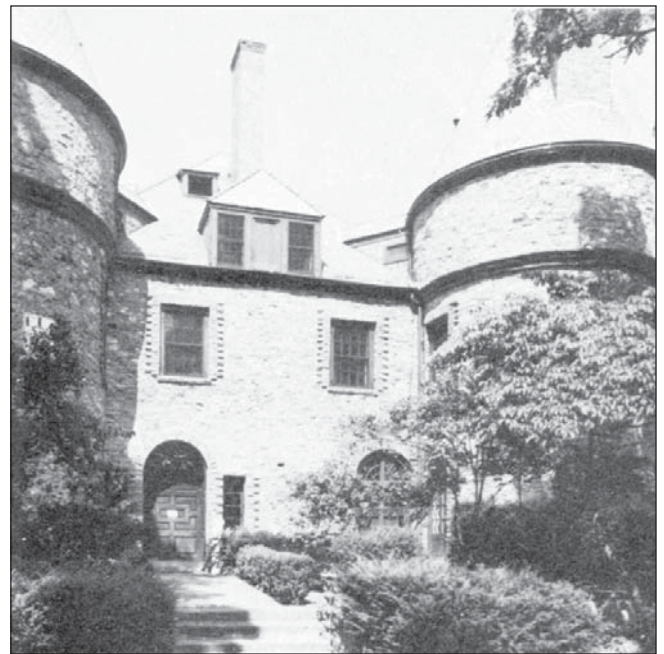
about his career comes from first-person narrative of almost daily diary entries, setting the stage for his place in history.

He was a stickler for details, a devout Christian, haunted with self-doubt and an inveterate fisherman. But Gifford Pinchot was also a humanist and a utilitarian who fought for the cause of conservation at a time when forest resources in the U.S. were disappearing at an alarming rate. Above all, Pinchot was an egalitarian who believed that forests in the U.S. were not the property of industry. Rather, forests belong to all of us, and it is the job of foresters to yield the “greatest good from forests, for the greatest number of people for the longest time.”

Aldo Leopold was born in Iowa to a family of modest wealth about 20 years after Pinchot’s birth. He was educated at Yale University, a tremendous academic honor for students of families without connections. After completing a Baccalaureate of Philosophy, he entered the newly formed Yale School of Forestry in 1908 to obtain a Masters of Forestry, graduating as one of the first students to benefit from the largess of the Pinchot family.

Without question, Leopold had many opportunities to ponder Pinchot’s ideas about forests and forestry, and in 1909 he followed the path of virtually all newly ordained foresters of his time; he went to work for the U.S. Forest Service, as a forest assistant in Arizona.

Leopold’s Forest Service career overlaps with Pinchot’s by only one year, and there is nothing to indicate the two ever met. Within three years, Leopold was promoted to ‘supervisor’ of the Carson National Forest in New Mexico, a meteoric rise for a person of his age and experience. Five years later he was



Grey Towers, the Pinchot family home in New Milford, PA, was donated to the Forest Service by the family, along with surrounding forestland, in 1963. It is the headquarters for the Pinchot Institute of Conservation Studies.

promoted to assistant district forester for the southwest region.

It was during this time that Leopold became an advocate for wilderness, employing the knowledge and skills he learned about managed forests to understanding and appreciating the ecology of ‘unmanaged’ wilderness. Few foresters today are aware of the fact that the wilderness movement, despised by many traditionalists, was spawned by one of their heroes, who not only established the first wilderness (Gila Wilderness Area in New Mexico), but he also laid the groundwork for the national forest wilderness system that exists today.

During his early tenure with the Forest Service, Leopold was nearly killed while attempting to settle a range dispute in remote New Mexico. He got caught in a “flood and blizzard” and survived the ordeal but it triggered a serious kidney ailment that laid him up for 18 months.

Given time while healing to reflect on his career, Leopold is said to have shifted his energies from forest and timber production to wildlife habitats and game. After moving back east in the mid-1920s to serve a brief stint as associate director of the Forest Products Lab in Madison, Wisconsin, Leopold relinquished his

federal appointment to work as an industry consultant developing a comprehensive inventory of game populations in the North Central states.

In 1932, while earning income as a consulting forester in Wisconsin, Leopold assembled the text for *Game Management*, his first book published in 1933, and the first textbook on that subject. Upon the publication of his book, Leopold was offered an endowed chair with the title of Professor of Game Management at the University of Wisconsin.

An endowed chair is funded with investment income from a large grant obtained by a university, usually for the express purpose of attracting a specific person to its faculty. When a prestigious institution offers an endowed chair with the rank of professor, it is the highest honor available to an academic. Most people who achieve professorial rank at a university must ascend through the ranks from "assistant" to "associate" and then full "professor" after seven to ten years of teaching and other scholarly endeavors.

During his tenure at Wisconsin, Professor Leopold served many professional organizations; from the Society of American Foresters, to National Audubon and the American Forestry Association. He was also one of the principal organizers of the Wilderness Society and the Wildlife Society, two groups often at odds with foresters today.

He was a dedicated teacher, a passionate speaker and a gifted author. His best known work, also published posthumously, is *A Sand County Almanac* (1949). It is a series of essays he wrote, mostly on weekends at his "shack," situated on cutover, abused, glacial "sand hills" of central Wisconsin.

The *Almanac* logs Leopold's experiences trying to reclaim his land with native plants, the many failures and few successes dealing with the depredations of mice and the vagaries of climate. In these essays, passages from which are easily quoted by many foresters, Leopold discovers himself and the fundamental challenges that face anyone who attempts to tame natural ecosystems. He died an untimely death in 1948, helping fight a grass fire on a neighbor's land.

The Pinchot experience is that of leadership; the actions of a person who was expected to do great things. He recognized the importance of forestry science in Europe, imported it the U.S. and guided its development. He exposed widespread industrial exploitation of forests on public lands and helped create an agency to manage forests as a public trust.

His last words published in his autobiography perfectly capture Pinchot's vision: "The rightful use and purpose of our natural resources is to make all the people strong and well, able and wise, well-taught, well-fed, well-clothed, well-housed, full of knowledge and initiative, with equal opportunity for all and special privilege for none... That is the answer."


The Leopold experience is one of contemplation and circumspection. Events in his life became metaphors he used to explain the workings of the natural world. Few, other than his students and colleagues, knew of Aldo Leopold until his journals were published after he died.

One of his best-known essays—The Land Ethic—sums up a "truth" about ecosystems and how humans interact with them. "...A system of conservation based solely on economic self-interest is hopelessly lopsided. It tends to ignore, and thus eventually to eliminate, many elements in the land community that lack commercial value, but that are (as far as we know) essential to its healthy functioning. It assumes, falsely, I think, that

the economic parts of the biotic clock will function without the uneconomic parts. It tends to relegate to government many functions eventually too large, too complex, or too widely dispersed to be performed by government. An ethical obligation on the part of the private owner is the only visible remedy for these situations."

Pinchot was widely known, often excoriated by his critics and the press. He retired to a grey limestone mansion in northeastern Pennsylvania where he wrote his own story about the emergence of forestry. The property, known as "Grey Towers," is now owned by the U.S. Forest Service as a Mecca to forestry in the U.S.

Leopold was quietly competent, well-liked by all who knew him, and virtually unknown during his career. He died before retirement, but had some of his best moments in a small shack where he wrote his version of the emergence of forestry, as a series of epiphanies that helped him understand and explain human connections to the natural world.

One can only guess what the two would have discussed if they had met. 

Thom J. McEvoy is an Associate Professor in the School of Natural Resources at the University of Vermont, where he has also held the title of Extension Forester since arriving there in 1981. This article originally appeared in the January 2004 issue of National Woodlands Magazine (www.woodlandowners.org). It was reprinted with their permission. Thom recently wrote "Positive Impact Forestry" published by Island Press.



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Forest Owners Must Adjust to Tent Caterpillar Defoliation

DOUGLAS C. ALLEN

Defoliation by forest tent and eastern tent caterpillars in 2003 was restricted to a relatively small area in southern St. Lawrence and northern Lewis Counties. In 2004, however, heavy defoliation occurred over several hundred square miles in this two-county region and noticeable damage appeared as far south as Onondaga County. The first questions that come to mind when an outbreak like this occurs relate to available pest management options and expectations for 2005.

As I have mentioned in previous articles, history tells us New York State most likely has experienced periodic outbreaks of the forest tent caterpillar for centuries. The largest one recorded to date occurred in the early 1950s. That episode began in 1951 as a relatively localized outbreak of 100,000 acres or so near Lake Ozonia in eastern St. Lawrence County. At its peak in 1954, it encompassed 15 million acres. In other words, most of New York State's northern hardwood forests were affected. The old records indicate forest tent caterpillar has

always been the dominant defoliator during these events, but typically eastern tent numbers increase simultaneously and populations of the two species intermingle. How abundant can the tent caterpillars get? When food becomes scarce as a result competition for foliage, caterpillars migrate substantial distances in search of something to eat. Similarly, when feeding is completed caterpillars disperse in search of a suitable site to spin a cocoon. Authenticated reports from the U.S. Department of Agriculture describe an outbreak where caterpillars were so abundant they covered railroad tracks "inches deep to the point where trains were brought to a standstill because the drive wheels slipped as if the rails had been oiled" and "rails and cross ties were obscured from sight!"

The Present Outbreak – People with homes, camps or woodlots within the current outbreak have experienced first hand how abundant the caterpillars can become. Not only are trees stripped of all foliage (Fig. 1) but highways and buildings in many locations this summer were



Figure 1. A stand of sugar maple in Fine, NY completely stripped of foliage by forest tent caterpillar.



Figure 2. A cluster of forest tent caterpillar larvae on a sugar maple leaf.

covered with these insects. Additionally, in areas where heavy defoliation has occurred for two consecutive years, a parasitic flesh fly was very prevalent and somewhat of a nuisance. This parasite is approximately the size of a deerfly, is very bristly and is distinctly striped with gray. It will not bite. Its presence in such large numbers and the simultaneous appearance of diseased caterpillars are good indications that in some areas the tent caterpillar population is collapsing. Another sign of the tent caterpillar's demise in many stands is the fact that all foliage was consumed before the insects were able to complete development. This greatly increases the probability of mass starvation. Also, the stress of consuming insufficient amounts of food or being forced to feed on low quality food frequently triggers the onset of disease.

If weather conditions remain favorable, however, I expect the outbreak to continue to spread and most likely a second year of heavy defoliation will occur in areas where the insects first appeared in large numbers this summer. Typically, following two years of heavy defoliation, a population will collapse.

The Defoliator Complex – In many locations forest tent caterpillar (Fig. 2) is not the only defoliator that has benefited



Figure 3. Two eastern tent caterpillars.

from favorable environmental conditions during the last two or three years. An unusually large number of eastern tent caterpillar (Fig. 3) also occurred throughout the outbreak area, along with an abundance of gypsy moth. The eastern tent generally concentrates on black cherry in most woodlots and along roadsides, while the forest tent feeds on a range of species found in northern hardwood stands, but especially sugar maple.

The Consequences of Heavy Defoliation— First of all, tent caterpillars are a first class nuisance when high populations occur in urban areas, around homes in rural settings, campsites and cottages. Once feeding has been completed, the caterpillars are no longer troublesome but large numbers of silken cocoons are unsightly when they appear on buildings.

Forest owners are understandably concerned about the future of their woodlots when all foliage is removed by mid-June (Figs. 1 & 4). Fortunately, most affected regions had above normal rainfall this spring and early summer. This will favor refoliation and recovery by the end of the growing season. We know reduced growth and some mortality usually follow on the heels of tent caterpillar outbreaks. Similarly, the

amount and quality (% sugar) of sap produced by sugarbushes the spring following a summer of heavy defoliation will be reduced significantly.

Available Management Options – A forest owner can take certain precautions to avoid imparting additional stress to an affected woodlot. Some may wish to implement direct control measures next spring to prevent further stress and to minimize the impact of defoliation on management objectives. The following recommendations are based on past experiences with forest tent caterpillar:

1. Do not conduct silvicultural activities the summer of a heavy defoliation. The act of thinning a stand, constructing access roads, etc., will just add further stress to an already stressful situation.

2. If practical, do not tap a heavily defoliated sugarbush in the spring.

Tapping is a form of stress. Sugar content of maple sap following a year of heavy defoliation often is reduced to 1% or less. So, realistically, it may not be worth the cost and effort to tap under these conditions anyway.

3. If 2004 was the first year of heavy defoliation, consider protecting foliage in 2005. Both a microbial insecticide (the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis*, commonly referred to as “B.t.”) and a synthetic organic insecticide called carbaryl (car-bar-ill), sold under the trade name Sevin[®], will reduce populations effectively and quickly. Talk with a professional aerial applicator about which material would be most appropriate for your location, defoliation history and management objectives.

4. If you wish to pursue a direct control option, plan ahead. Most especially, when “B.t.” is the material of choice timing of the application is critical. This bacterium acts as a stomach poison, which means it must be consumed by the caterpillars. Therefore, it is generally applied after foliage has expanded (expanded foliage is needed to “catch” the spray droplets) and when caterpillars are relatively small. Carbaryl, on the other hand, is a contact poison and acts by penetrating the insect’s skin and affecting its nervous system. All the insect has to do is come in contact with a droplet and mortality occurs very quickly.



Figure 4. A branch stripped of foliage. All that remains are the petioles.

5. If your woodlot was not heavily defoliated this year yet you were able to detect evidence of a building population, such as thin crowns and an unusual number of caterpillars, you may want to prevent heavy defoliation next year and should plan to implement controls in 2005. This would be especially prudent if you are managing a sugarbush or your goal is to produce quality sugar maple or black cherry sawtimber.

Finally, even though this outbreak is a nuisance and may, in fact, have an impact on management objectives, remember these are native insects. Periodic tent caterpillar outbreaks are a normal event in northern hardwood forests. Though some mortality can be expected and growth losses will occur, under normal conditions the forest will recover quickly once natural mortality agents catch up with the insect. 🐞

This is the 75th 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/dfp/privland/forprot/health/nyfo/index.html>.

Sustainable Forestry at Indian Chimney Farm

CHRIS GRANT

Chris and Kim Grant purchased Indian Chimney Farm as a place to grow their alpaca herd in the fall of 2002. Their farm totals 65 acres, containing 35 acres of pastures and fields, and a 25-acre woodlot. The other 5 acres contains two gorges and their home and gardens.

Forest Ecosystem

Over the past few years, I have been curious about the forest ecosystem. I began to learn about the forest, and have discovered that we are able to help the forest be strong, disease and insect resistant, and to provide room for desired species to grow, much like in a garden. I found that much of our regional forest is too thickly settled with trees and shrubs to allow sun-loving trees to get started, and mature into next generation. In addition, deer pressure and unsustainable logging practices are making it very challenging for native and valuable trees to regenerate properly. As a result of these and other factors, the forest composition is changing rapidly.

By the turn of the last century, most of upstate New York had been cultivated. Most of those old farms have since returned to a wild state, and the resulting forest is now evolving and changing rapidly. The succession of tilled farmland to forest in less than 100 years has created crowded wood conditions, and there is not enough sunlight for all trees to grow to their full, healthy, natural size.

Forest Planning

Our regional Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) forester helped us prepare a “forest stewardship plan,” which basically describes the state of our forest, and our goals in managing it. Together, we decided to mark trees for a ‘cull’ cut, or weeding of the woods. With the help of this

unbiased and knowledgeable DEC forester, we planned a walk through the woods, identifying trees that could be cut for firewood or left to nourish the soil. This careful planning of a cut to remove a very small percentage of the total number of trees, would as a result leave behind selected trees with improved chances of health, maturity, and succession. Our action would also open up the forest floor to increased sunlight, allowing sun-loving trees to have a better chance of growing to maturity.

So we began to develop some ideas or guidelines to use in our woods, here are a few examples:

- Many of the hardwood species have to get very old and large before they begin producing large amounts of seed, so many of the large hardwood trees were selected to preserve, ensuring they have the room they need to grow.

- Many of our native, New York, tree species produce food (nuts and fruits) for wildlife and humans. Some examples of food producers are: oaks, hickories, wild grapes, cherries, and apples.

- A few of our hardwood trees are very valuable on the timber market (like Black Cherry and Red Oak), so we wish to select for them so they can reach financial maturity, for eventual harvesting after succession is assured.

- Some of the trees in our forest are rare, like Black Walnut, American Elm, or are dying off rapidly, like White Pine and Red Cedar. We wished to identify healthy specimens of these trees and select for them, so they have a chance to live out their lives and reproduce.

- We keep 4-5 colonies of bees at Indian Chimney Farm, so we selected for Basswood, which produces nectar that our bees turn into light and delicious honey.

One or more of these goals, in various regions of the woods, were used to help identify trees that we wished to preserve and maximize their growth opportunity.

Walking The Woods

We walked the woods, stopping frequently to look at groups of trees, determining the few chosen trees to preserve, and marking the few cull trees that need to be removed to free them up for maximum growth. In areas where Black Cherries, Oaks and Sugar Maples were common, we dubbed the best “crop trees”, and nailed an aluminum tag with a unique number into its base. We recorded species, diameter, quality, and number of saw logs for later analysis and growth tracking.

We chose trees that were seed trees, eventual timber trees, wildlife habitat trees, and unusual or rare trees. We spent hours gazing up at the treetops, attempting to determine who was getting the sun, and where we could safely and effectively thin to improve the situation. Most of the trees we left alone, getting neither mark for cull or tag for keep. We marveled at the diversity, the huge old trees we found (3 trees over 30”!), unusual growth patterns, massive vines, tangles of wild rose and honeysuckle, old stumps, and more (We counted the growth rings on one old Oak stump and got to 100 before we hit the edge). We walked the woods in rain, snow and sun. Our 25-acre woodlot took a total of 15 or 20 hours to cover it all. We tagged 327 crop trees, and many more trees got blue paint for the cull cut, mostly small, diseased, less desirable species, or very common trees, like buckthorn, beech, red maple, and hornbeam. The biggest trees will be left, throwing seed for their natural lives, and inspiring people with their size and beauty.

Begin Today

You too can be a steward of your woods. Any size woodlot can be studied, and possibly improved.

The first and most important thing you need to do is to identify some of your own goals for your forest management. Common goals include: recreation, timber sales, hunting, diversity, wildlife observation, habitat improvement, agroforestry (ginseng, mushrooms, goldenseal, berries, nuts), firewood, wetland restoration, maple syrup, and other reasons unique to you. What do you want out of your woods? You can choose to leave it alone and the forest will do its own weeding in due time, and strong and sometimes invasive species will come to dominate, or you can apply sound stewardship goals towards long term improvement of the forest stand.

Spend some time walking your woods, alone or with other friends, and let your woods tell you its needs. Think about what the forest will look like in the next generation, and beyond. Look at the treetops and see which ones have a healthy crown, which ones get the sun during the day?

Next Steps


Once you are ready to take the next step, tap into free resources in the DEC and Master Forest Owner (MFO)

volunteer program, to learn how to manage your woods to meet your goals. Please, don't let the for-profit loggers guide your selection of trees to cut, as short-term profit goals are rarely in the best interest of your unique and precious forest ecosystem. Instead work with a good state or consulting forester to determine what, if anything, should be cut in your woods.

As the years go on, I'll occasionally add to or update the tree database, recording new sizes and growth rates. In 10 or 15 years, we'll cut some timber from the woods, once we know the next generation of trees is present. To help assure succession of the valuable timber trees, we also have a small nursery of trees that we bought from the USDA and put in buckets to grow. We've got 10 each of Black Cherry, Sugar Maple, Red Oak, Sassafras, Norway Spruce (for shelter in our pastures), and a few others. Once we've cleared some room in the woods, and these trees have grown up a bit, we'll put them in sunny spots and surround them with a deer fence.

Further Resources

Forestry is a big topic, and if you wish to become more active in forest management you

may feel a bit overwhelmed at times. However, you have great resources to help you! Our own Department of Environment Conservation (DEC), and the Cornell Cooperative Extension's Master Forest Owner (MFO) program both offer free assistance to landowners wishing to take some steps in managing their forest. 

Cornell has a resource for an easy to use method of tree identification: <http://bhort.bh.cornell.edu/tree/trees.htm>
MFO program: <http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/mfo>
DEC: Locate and call your regional DEC office. <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/>
CCE: <http://www.cce.cornell.edu/>

Chris and Kim Grant own Indian Chimney Farm in Lansing, NY. They raise and sell top quality alpaca and alpaca clothing, train performance horses, and more. The Grand Opening of Indian Chimney Farm and its country gift shop will take place on October 9 and 10, 2004. See: www.IndianChimneyFarm.com for more information.



Chris Grant standing by one of this Crop trees at Indian Chimney Farm.

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NEWS & NOTES

Warren County Tree Farmers Recognized

Warren County residents Art & Kris Perryman of Weavertown have been named the 2004 New York State Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year, and Steve Warne of Warrensburg was named the 2004 New York Tree Farm Inspecting Forester of the Year. The awards were presented to them at the State Arbor Day Ceremony in Albany by New York Tree Farm Chair Michael Burns, New York Lt. Governor Mary O. Donohue, and Ag & Markets Commissioner Nathan Rudgers.

“A Tree Farm is living proof that a well-managed forest is a better forest,” said Steve Warne, the Perryman’s inspecting

forester and one of the American Tree Farm System’s 6,000 volunteers. “Art & Kris deserve to be recognized for their 28 years of excellent forest management and their commitment to forest stewardship,” he said.

“Steve has been a great advocate of sustainable forestry for more than 25 years, and has been instrumental in helping landowners in Warren, Washington, and Saratoga Counties manage their forests,” said Burns. “Steve volunteers his time to help 65 families and organizations care for over 11,000 acres of forests while providing high quality wood, clean water, abundant wildlife, and recreational opportunities based upon each Tree Farmer’s objectives.”

The Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year competition recognizes private landowners for the exceptional job they are doing of enhancing the forest on their property. Winners are also chosen based on their efforts to foster and promote the practice of sustainable forestry to other landowners and the public.

Tug Hill Forest Owner’s Handbook Completed

The first edition of the Tug Hill Forest Owner’s Handbook is now available to forest landholders in the Tug Hill Region. The handbook funded by the Snow Foundation and the US Environmental Protection Agency’s Great Lakes National Program was published by The Nature Conservancy’s Northern New York Project office in cooperation with forestry staff from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the NYS Tug Hill Commission, the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, and the grassroots group THRIFT (Tug Hill Resources Investment for Tomorrow).

The guide helps to explain why Tug Hill forests are important, how active forest management can help landowners identify objectives, why forestry planning is important, how to start planning and managing forests, what economic and ecological benefits can be expected in forest management, and what resources are available to assist forest landholders in the Tug Hill Region. Many readers will recognize the artwork in the publication as that of Robert McNamara who edited and illustrated The Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust’s recent nature guide book, Tug Hill: A Four Season Guide to the Natural Side published by North Country Books in 1999.

Linda Garrett, Executive Director of the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust views the Handbook as a great resource for forest landowners. “In our experience locally, continually rising property taxes are forcing landowners to either sell off lots or cut timber to meet their tax obligations. The Forest Owner’s Handbook is an attempt to inform forest owners that, in



Photo taken during the official New York State Arbor Day ceremony. From Left: Art & Kris Perryman, New York Lt. Gov. Mary O. Donohue, Albany Mayor Gerry Jennings, NY Commissioner of Ag & Markets Nathan Rudgers, NY Tree Farm Chair Michael Burns.

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stewarding their property when faced with economic hardship, striking a balance between economic benefits and healthy forests is possible.”

Landowners interested in obtaining a copy of the handbook can contact either The Nature Conservancy’s Pulaski Office at 315-387-3600, local DEC Lands and Forests offices surrounding Tug Hill, or the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust’s office in Watertown at 315-779-8240.

Forest Land Best Management Practices CD-ROM




This new electronic guide is for woodland owners, loggers, foresters, and community leaders. It is a compilation of tips and techniques for maintaining water quality during forest harvesting, particularly with the special soil conditions of the Finger Lakes region of New York State. It is set up to run without an Internet connection, yet provide hundreds of pages of information, navigable by computer mouse clicks and scrolling.

Developed by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County, the CD lists and explains more than one hundred best management practices for Finger Lakes forests. Included are details about best management practices:

- before a timber harvest
- during a timber harvest
- after a timber harvest
- in a non-harvest situation, and
- for forest owners working in their own woodlands intermittently.

This electronic resource is a supplement to Best Management Practices During Timber Harvesting Operations created by the Chemung County Soil and Water Conservation District and the New York Forestry Best Management Practices Field Guide created by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

One CD and / or booklet set per household or office; supplies are limited. To order a free copy of the CD, and / or supplemental booklets, mail the appropriate shipping fee and your name, mailing address, and phone number to: Forest BMP Educational Guides, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County, 208 Broadway Street, Montour Falls, NY 14865. (Shipping Fees: Forest Land Best Management Practices CD-ROM only = \$2.00 shipping; Complete package of CD-ROM, Chemung County Timber Harvest BMP Manual, and NYS BMP Field Guide = \$4.00 shipping). Please make checks payable to “CCE -Schuyler.” For more information call (607) 535-7161. 

CALENDAR

August 4-6, 2004 (Wednesday-Friday)
NYSAF Summer Meeting

Saranac Lake, NY
Program will consist of various field tours in the Saranac Lake area. For more information contact Craig Vollmer by phone at 315-338-0899 or via e-mail at cv@forestryexperts.com. A registration form can be downloaded from www.nysaf.org

August 7, 2004 (Saturday)
Eastern MFO/Coverts Refresher
Hobart Community Center/Fire Hall, Hobart NY

Dan Palm, NYFOA Executive Director, has graciously offered to host the 2004 MFO/COVERTS Eastern Refresher. Dan and his brother have been vigorously involved in forest and wildlife management over the years and his experiences should be both interesting and educational. Management of rights-of-way is a great topic for those interested in wildlife. Bands of grass and/or shrub habitat through forest habitats provides valuable diversity that attracts many kinds of wildlife. There will also be a presentation on WAC Programs, that will bring you up to date on opportunities for forest owners that you meet. Please pre-register with Deanna Owens (607/255-2814, <dlo3@cornell.edu>) by **Tuesday, August 3rd**.

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MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Materials submitted for the September/October 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 August 1, 2004.



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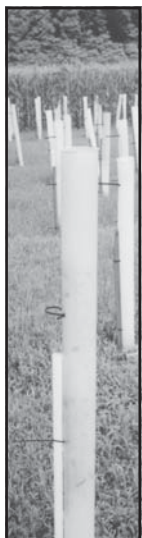
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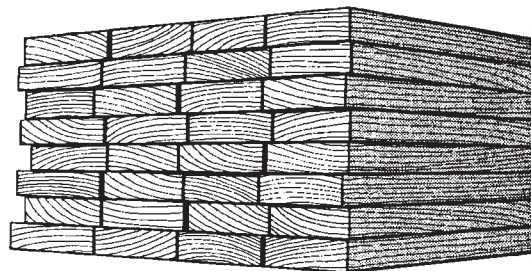


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