

# The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

January/February 2005



## The Difference Between Crop Tree Management and Basal Area Thinning

*Volume 43 Number 1*



FOUNDED 1963

# THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Volume 42, Number 6

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# The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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**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](http://www.nyfoa.org)

**COVER:** Image shows trees left after thinning. See page 6 for full article on Crop Tree Thinning. Photo courtesy of Peter Smallidge.

# From The President

## The 2005 Farm Show

"The best fertilizer for the woods is the owners footprints." I learned this long ago from a sage old forest owner and I have spent countless joyful days working, hiking, sawing, splitting, planting, climbing, collecting, watching, freezing, sweating, measuring, and just enjoying my precious land! To really appreciate what we have in our woods and to learn about the choices available for managing our woods, we need to educate ourselves.

That education often comes from fellow landowners who have tried and failed and tried and succeeded. NYFOA woods-



walks are a rich source of peer information where successes and failures are readily shared by veterans and newcomers alike.

An additional learning opportunity is about to present itself on February 24-26. The 2005 Farm Show will be held in Syracuse at the State Fairgrounds. As we have for the past several years under the leadership of NYFOAN John Druke, NYFOA will have a booth (where you might win a free chainsaw) full of all kinds of NYFOA related information and staffed by knowledgeable volunteer foresters, Master Forest Owners (MFO's) and woodland owners.

Beginning at 1p.m. on Thursday the 24th, NYFOA will present eleven different seminars on topics of great interest to all forest owners including many farmers who have woodlots as part of their farms.

Here are a few representative topics

- A. Timber Theft
- B. Insect & Disease Problems in your Forest
- C. Timber Sales
- D. Sugarbush Management
- E. Thinning your Woodlot
- F. Deer Season Changes & QDM
- G. Wild Edible Plants and Mushrooms
- H. How Much Is Your Timber Worth

## I. Higher Taxes on Woodland? Maybe!

You will receive a separate invitation to the farm show as a NYFOA member and I encourage you to set aside some time and join me in Syracuse! Attend one or several of our seminars (they last about 50 minutes) and visit the displays of chainsaws, ATV's, woodsplitters, and many other items of interest to woodland owners.

\*

I reported to you previously through this column, that the NYFOA board has begun an effort to selectively take positions on public policy matters that have or will have a significant impact on the ownership, management, and stewardship of private forest lands. At the last meeting of the board a resolution was passed that took a position on taxation of woodlands. In a nutshell NYFOA asks for a comprehensive look at the current state program with the intent to remake or develop a new program for tax relief that gives forest owners incentive to practice good stewardship which has numerous societal benefits such as clean air, clean water, biodiversity etc. In collaboration with other organizations that think like we do on this issue, we will begin the process of educating policy makers about the need to assess the current program and change or replace it! Many neighboring states have excellent plans in place that are utilized by a large percentage of forest owners unlike the very tiny participation in our current state program.

I would like to thank Alan White a board member and chair of the Public Policy committee for his thoughtful and diligent leadership on this issue. Alan and NYFOA member Dave Colligan who is an attorney specializing in forestry matters, have done significant work to get us where we are today. Hats off to you both!

P.S. The annual meeting of NYFOA will be held on Saturday February 26 at the FarmShow. Hope you can join us!

-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

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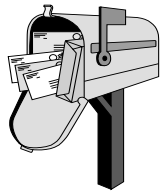
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# In The MAIL



Letters to the Editor are the opinions of the authors themselves and not necessarily of the New York Forest Owners Association. They may be sent to: The New York Forest Owner  
134 Lincklaen Street, Cazenovia, NY 13035  
OR  
via e-mail at [mmalmshe@syr.edu](mailto:mmalmshe@syr.edu)

**Note:** A November/December 2004 Letter to the Editor addressed the subject of hourly versus commission-based hiring of foresters. A number of readers have reacted to this, and a representative counter-point is offered in this issue (see page 8). Letters to the Editor in the *Forest Owner*, regardless of position, should serve to clarify or educate the readers.

Within the above referenced letter, I, as final editorial reviewer, unfortunately let enter print examples of personal and unprofessional insult and innuendo. I apologize for these oversights as it detracts from the educational mission of the organization, it discredits a pillar of the private forestry community, and it failed to contribute to the author's struggle to make a point.

—Peter Smallidge  
Chair Forest Owner Editorial  
Committee and NYS Extension Forester

Jonathan Raymond's letter, printed in the November/December *Forest Owner*, served to antagonize just about every constituency in the forestry community. He belittles those who serve the forests in academia, his fellow consultants who are willing to work on an hourly basis, and even his customer, the non-industrial private forest owner (NIPF).

Raymond has the effrontery to claim that the NIPF should be willing to pay sometimes-exorbitant commissions to a consultant because, quote "income from timber sales is often supplemental income for the NIPF." My reply to the merits of his argument appears as an article elsewhere in this issue.

—Jerry Michael  
Binghamton, NY

I noticed the letter from Jon Raymond in the last *Forest Owner* about foresters charging by commission or

hourly in assisting forest owners with timber sales. And, several people have contacted me stating they thought Jon was referring to me in his letter. Jon is upset that some people take issue with foresters being paid on a commission basis. I am a consultant forester who charges an hourly fee for all services I provide.

I have always felt consultant foresters charging on a commission basis for helping clients sell timber have at least a perception of a conflict of interest. A timber sale is different than a real estate, car, or other item normally sold on commission because those items are not changed in the process of the sale; where tree selection for harvest may be. It is a challenge, when marking on commission, to walk by a valuable tree to mark a low grade or cull where the income derived is significantly lower. In marking timber stand improvement, writing forest management plans and other services, the charge is usually by the hour or by the acre; so why not have services associated with timber sales paid on the basis of work done rather than on a percentage of what is sold?

There are several facts that should be considered. First, a harvest study carried out by the New York Society of American Foresters in the 1990's revealed that 80% of harvests in the state are not meeting sustainable forestry standards. Exploitation cuts included sales handled by foresters. Second, in being paid an hourly fee, most of my clients save money.

Without high-grading or over cutting woodlots, most of my timber sales fall in the 5 to 8% range of what the client receives. Granted, a firewood harvest a long distance from my office can substantially exceed the 10 or 15% commission that is the usual commission rate; but those clients know up

front what the cost will run and the reasoning for the project: forest improvement for the future. Yes, I charge for travel time; but I include tree marking paint within the hourly fee because I use quite a bit of paint on each tree to assure visibility from all directions and on more than one side of the stump. I do not want clients trying to have me minimize paint because I believe it leads to a better job in the long run. Travel is an expensive part of the consulting business and that expense has to be covered somehow. If I had a flat fee to cover travel expenses, clients close by would be subsidizing those far away. I find I am cost

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Hopefully my fee schedule is making competition working on a commission basis uncomfortable.

–Michael C. Greason  
Consulting Forester  
Catskill, NY

Consulting Forester Jonathan Raymond of Cambridge has submitted a perplexing letter critical of billing practices employed by other consultants.

It is true that Consulting Forester's derived a disproportionate amount of income by assisting landowners with sawtimber harvests. A professional forester need not follow examples established by unprofessional realtors and lawyers who receive a percentage of the yield rather than remuneration for the time spent assisting the client.

It does not make sense for a Consulting Forester to receive a greater fee for

assisting with the sale of cherry, maple, oak and ash than a sale comprised of aspen, hemlock, hickory and pine, assuming expended man-hours equal. Furthermore, if a percentage of the yield is quoted, the landowner has no idea what the services will cost.

Though unlikely, it is possible for the Consulting Forester to submit an elevated invoice. Mystery can be eliminated if the Consulting Forester quotes a lump sum figure for services in advance.

–James L. Pitt  
Consulting Forester  
Bath, NY

#### **NYFOA Name Change**

I agree with John Hastings letter to the editor about the name change. His points were well taken. Keep the change as close to our NYFOA name for recognition among other groups and foresters, owners of woodlots, etc. Years ago when I was president of

NYFOA, John Krebbs and I explored the possibility of our organization becoming a 501 (c) 3. At the time the process seemed to complicated and cumbersome. Now that those problems have been resolved it does seem that John Hastings viewpoint be agreed upon. Keep the name as close to the original as possible.

–Mary McCarthy  
Rochester, NY

#### **New York's Forest Tax Law 480A**

I just received the November/December issue of the *New York Forest Owner*. What a sad issue. I wonder what the Forest Owner members of NYFOA who have benefited (been saved) by 480A will be thinking of their organization. I can not put down on paper what I think.

–F.A. "Mike" Demeree  
Charter member since day one and  
1984 National Outstanding  
Tree Farmer credited with  
being father of 480A



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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](mailto: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](http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/forestrypage)*

## QUESTION:

What is the difference between crop tree management and basal area (or area wide) thinning?

## ANSWER:

Crop tree thinning\* is where we informally enter a stand and remove competing trees from around select, desirable individual trees—our crop trees\*\*; the rest of the stand is left unthinned. Degree of competitor removal depends upon the species of crop tree we are releasing, but often we remove all competitors. It is a relatively simple approach. We decide on the type and number of crop trees in a stand, and release them from competition. Number of crop trees in any one stand can range from few to many.

In an area-wide, or basal area approach to thinning, competition among all trees across a stand is formally, uniformly reduced so that all trees benefit, especially those in the main-crown canopy (upper story of trees). It is a more intensive approach than crop tree. It generally requires a

stand inventory to measure the current level of basal area and stocking, use of a stocking chart to determine the relationship between current and desired levels of basal area, and

refined, uniform marking and removal of trees across a stand. A forester is often needed to conduct these activities.

I believe that crop tree approaches to thinning are useful in situations where: 1) the practitioner does not have the skills or knowledge to apply an area-wide approach; 2) the stand is too young to benefit from an area-wide approach, mainly because many of the trees to be cut would be non-merchantable, hence we focus our cut only where we absolutely have to ... removing competing trees to free a small set of crop trees; and/or 3) the stand is of such poor quality that there



A closed forest canopy is a good indicator that tree growth is less than optimal. Thinning is not mandatory, but the best tree growth, and thus tree health, is improved when trees have adequate sunlight to the top and sides of their crown.



Landowners who apply crop tree management will often flag “leave” versus “cut” trees before they begin cutting. This allows them to gauge the intensity of cutting and make desired adjustments. Flagging may be removed after cutting.

are only a few desirable trees to culture. In comparison, an area-wide approach to thinning may be warranted only when a large portion of the trees in the main crown canopy are desirable, so that overall stand quality is high. This type of stand can provide a positive return on investment associated with the more intensive nature of the crown thinning (including costs associated with hiring a forester).

A useful way to understand the relationship between the two approaches to thinning is to consider a stand with a large number of crop trees, say 25-35 in a sugar maple-dominated, northern hardwood stand. A crop-tree approach with each of the 25-35 trees having competitors removed would produce a stand that looks very much the same as the same stand thinned using an area-wide approach\*\*\*. In both approaches to thinning we culture the long-term presence of desirable upper canopy trees. We focus our cutting of trees on what we leave behind, not on what we remove, and that helps make both approaches to thinning a part of silviculture. 🌲

\*In older literature, the crop tree approach is referred to as “cleaning” (younger stands not past the sapling stage) or “free thinning” (older stands, pole-sized and larger). Basal area or area-wide approaches to thinning are referred to as “crown thinnings.”

\*\*Crop trees are those trees that produce the core values, benefits, or services we want from a stand. These values are usually associated with wood products, but they could also be associated with wildlife habitat, aesthetics, or even water quality. For each type of crop tree we need to define specific attributes that make it desirable. For example, a crop tree desirable for sawtimber production would be one that is healthy, resides in an upper canopy position, and has a straight main stem, free of forks or side branches, and a tolerable amount of stem defects.

\*\*\*While this statement is correct, it often turns out that with a full crown-touching release (all competitors whose crowns touch the crop tree are removed) in a stand with many crop trees per acre, the crop tree treatment may resemble a shelterwood cut (a regeneration method), not a crown thinning.



Trees left after thinning should be healthy, vigorous, and thus able to respond to the increased resources. Note the fullness of these crowns. It is not possible to look at a tree after a thinning and decide if crop tree or area wide techniques were used. You would need to look at the whole forest.

### Sources of more information

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*By Christopher A. Nowak, Associate Professor, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, New York (canowak@esf.edu)*

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# Compensating CONSULTING FORESTERS

Jerry Michael

Thankfully, the practice of paying consulting foresters a commission to manage a timber sale is going the way of the dinosaurs. Forest owners, and the consultants themselves, would be well served to hasten the demise of this indefensible practice.

## Problems with the Commission Payment Method

1. First and foremost, it promotes conflict of interest, or at least the perception of such.

We can assume that most knowledgeable non-industrial private forest owners (NIPF's) subscribe to the practice of sustainable forestry. We generally want to harvest our trees when they reach economic maturity, unless they need to be removed earlier during a timber stand improvement (TSI) practice. Every tree with paint on it represents an individual judgment call, based on many objective and subjective factors. When we see a 18" black cherry with veneer potential marked for harvest, and realize that it may add \$100 in value per year over the next five to ten years, we shouldn't have to wonder whether the forester's personal gain was one of the considerations that caused him to mark it. In these days of widely publicized corporate scandals, the code of ethics to which foresters subscribe is scant defense against conflicted interest, whether real or perceived.

2. DEC and consulting foresters very appropriately counsel forest owners to avoid contracts with

loggers that compensate the owner on a 40/60% or other "share" basis. It is illogical for a consultant to discourage this practice, and then demand a 10 to 15% share or commission for his services. Forest owners pay a lot of property taxes and insurance on their woodlots between harvests, and many incur expenses and devote a lot of personal time on TSI as well. They should not have to directly share their infrequent financial returns with either logger or consultant.

3. The argument that a commission is necessary to motivate the consultant to do a good job for the forest owner, and to work to obtain top dollar for his stumpage, is an insult to the integrity, professionalism, and work ethic of the forester. Like any entrepreneur, a consultant is self-motivated by concerns for quality, reputation, good references and repeat business, as well as fair compensation for his professional services.

Some consultants defend the commission practice by comparing it to the real estate industry, but the comparison is faulty. In real estate, the sale of the property is not assured, so the seller is reluctant to pay a realtor on any basis until a sale is consummated. With a timber sale however, you can generally assume that a well executed bid offering will result in a sale, thus eliminating the rationale for a contingent commission.

A more useful analogy is that of the Financial Planner. When you are

in need of such a service, would you rather seek out an independent Certified Financial Planner and pay him or her on an hourly basis, or accept the "free" advice of a planner who also represents an insurance company, or a mutual fund that charges a 6% sales load?

## A Better Answer

Full-service consulting foresters already charge on an hourly or per-acre basis for appraisals, preparation of management plans, TSI, herbicide application, tree planting, etc. There is no reason they cannot charge an hourly rate for managing a timber harvest as well, and more are moving in this direction every year.

The consultant who managed my hunting club's forested property in Delaware County retired last year, and we requested proposals from ten potential replacements. We asked each of them to indicate their willingness to manage timber harvests on an hourly basis. Two of them were already charging hourly, and six more agreed to, at rates ranging from \$30 to \$100 per hour. The hourly rate is a matter for negotiation, and will vary according to whether the consultant includes office and travel time, paint and supplies, etc. The consultant we hired charges us \$50 per hour, including travel time and office hours, and we paid \$270 for the paint he used to mark our recent TSI and commercial harvest on a 110 acre stand.

We estimate that our consultant costs for this harvest will total



approximately 6 to 7% of what we received for the stumpage, once the harvest is completed to our satisfaction. I have heard equivalent numbers as low as 5% for commercial harvests that included a lot of valuable hardwoods, and you should expect that an hourly-paid consultant will still cost you 15% or more of your stumpage receipts for managing a TSI or softwood harvest.

#### Summary

Eliminating the consultant commission for managing timber harvests provides benefits for both the forest owner and the consultant. The forest owner benefits through more reasonable consultant costs for harvests of high-value hardwoods. The consultant benefits by not having to wait until after the bid opening to be paid for work completed weeks or months before, and by not being "second guessed" about his tree marking decisions by his client (or the DEC, in the case of properties enrolled under the Forest Tax Law 480a).

Ten years from now, we're going to wonder how this practice managed to persist for so long. We need to move on, or join the dinosaurs! 🦖

*Jerry Michael owns and manages forested properties in Broome and Delaware Counties, and serves on the Board of Directors for NYFOA and as State Treasurer*

# Forestry Awareness Day 2005

**Tuesday March 15, 2005**

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**Join the NYFOA Team in Albany** to support legislative action on forestry issues. Activities include **Forestry Exhibits, Forestry Issues Roundtable, Education Sessions on Forestland Tax Reform and Forest Health, Legislative Visits and Legislative Reception.** NYFOA is a host and therefore the **FORESTRY AWARENESS DAY** activities are **FREE** to all NYFOA Members.

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# HOW TO: *Manage a Woodlot for Firewood*

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Just as the owners of large tracts of land must establish management plans to ensure that their forest land remains productive, owners of small woodlots must do the same—even if their objective is something as seemingly straightforward as firewood productions. In fact, even if a landowner's goal is to meet his or her personal fuel wood needs for the year, steps must be taken to ensure that a sufficient number of trees are available for two or three cords of stacked wood to be harvested annually without depleting the supply.

Before cutting any firewood, inventory all the trees within the boundary of the landscape you have set aside for fuel wood production. The inventory should include the number and species of trees and two measurements: the total height (in feet) and the diameter (in inches) at breast height (dbh). The dbh is generally taken at 4.5 feet above the ground.

For example, using the table on the next page, if the measured tree is 12 inches dbh and 60 feet tall, approximately .33 standard cords of firewood can be cut from that tree. Repeat this exercise for each tree in the woodlot to find the total number of standard cords of firewood currently available.

Keep records of the initial inventory of trees and wood volume. Record and deduct the trees and volume you remove and watch for those trees that were previously not counted but grew large enough to be measured and added to the total volume. As a rule, an acre of good hardwood land should be capable of producing about two cords of wood each year. Hardwood sites with this capacity can produce almost all of your fuel needs on a single acre. On poorer sites, several acres may be required to yield the same continuous supply.

## **The First Firewood Harvest**

On a well-forested site, the first firewood harvesting effort should be a thinning. Suppressed trees (i.e., trees that are tall, slender, and have compressed crowns because of overcrowding) should be removed. Leave for the

time being dominant trees that have expressed a competitive advantage by producing a full, wide-spreading crown. This method of cutting, often called a "low thinning" or "thinning from below," facilitates the removal of trees that have not grown as fast as others in the stand. It also reduces unnecessary competition for the fast-growers.

Any improvements to the stand, such as taking out diseased, damaged, and defective trees, may be conducted at this time. Dead trees or decaying snags may be left as nesting cavities for birds and animals. These relics are by no means competing with the other trees, and the decaying wood is less than satisfactory for fuel. However, they may cause accidents when they fall, so watch them closely.

If possible, conduct thinning and cutting operations in the late winter/early spring of the year in which the wood will be used. This schedule gives adequate time for the wood to dry to the right moisture content for efficient burning. It is also important in regenerating the stand.

## **Second-Year Harvest**

Because most of the suppressed, dead, and dying trees were removed during the first year's low thinning and improvement operations, the second-year harvest must come from the larger, healthier trees in the stand.

Thus, the second year's harvest will drastically modify the stand, because trees that make up the main canopy will be removed.

Choosing the trees to cut during the second year may be based on several factors, but the most important relates to the growth rate of the individual trees. Using the inventory information from the previous year, several trees that were measured should be identified. New measurements should be taken on those trees to find out how much new wood has accrued over the past year. For example, if the estimated standing volume after the first cut (the low thinning and cut) was 10 cords and the

estimated standing volume before the second year's harvest is 11 cords, harvest only one cord during the second year. Make the second-year firewood cut from those trees that did not show any growth over the past year. If all the trees that were measured showed some new growth, cut from those that grew the least.

It is important to remember not to allow the harvest to exceed the amount of wood that the stand is adding through growth each year. This concept, known as "sustained yield management," ensures a steady supply of firewood for the future. By eliminating the slow-growing species and reducing competition for sunlight, space, nutrients, and moisture, the best trees may even have higher growth rates. In fact, if handled properly, the volume of the annual harvest may increase.

Plans for conducting the third-year and subsequent harvests should be carried out in the same manner as the second year's operations.

## **Regenerating the Stand**


During the second year's cutting operations, known as "selective thinning" or "thinning from above," some provision must be made for the regeneration of new trees. Keep in mind during the harvest that several young trees are already present in the general area of the one being cut. Identify some of the larger, more vigorous seedlings and protect them during the cutting operation.

Many species of hardwoods will sprout from living stumps to produce a "cop-pice," or sprout stand. Some species sprout more than others, and in general the younger trees sprout better than older ones. Many of the species that make excellent firewood, such as oaks, sprout abundantly. Cutting the parent tree in late winter/early spring also may increase the chances for sprouting. Because the stump already has an extensive root system and it is still alive, first-season sprouts will grow more rapidly than either planted or natural seedlings.

During the first spring, each stump may produce numerous sprouts. Select the largest stem on each stump and pull or cut the remaining ones. This concentrates the future growth into one tree rather than several small ones that would be overcrowded.

Because the stand will have large gaps left in the canopy, many species of grasses, shrubs, nettles, and briars will invade the open area in the spring. This vegetation may not over top the seedlings and sprouts that were left, but it will compete for nutrients and moisture. Controlling the undesirable vegetation through chopping, raking, or chemical treatment should increase the growth rates of the favored seedlings.

Areas that are not in forest may be planted with species that are suitable for firewood. For hardwood plantings, the land must be prepared almost as well as a field for agricultural crops. After planting, the seedlings must be protected from grazing animals and vegetative competition until they are well established.

Once the planted stands are established, they may be managed similar to the management scheme detailed previously for natural stands. The first harvest should be a low thinning to take out those trees that were suppressed. The second and all future harvests should be based on the amount of wood that grew the previous year. 

This article was adapted from *Managing Your Forest Landscape for Firewood (FOR-19)*, by D.M. Flinchum, a publication of the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension Service. (Note: This document was first published as FRC-19 in 1981 and was revised in April 1998)

For more information, contact D.M. Flinchum, professor, University of Florida, Everglades Research Center, 3200 East Palm Beach Road, Belle Glade, FL 33430; (561) 753-5241; dmflinchum@ifas.ufl.edu.

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## Cords of firewood that can be cut from standing trees

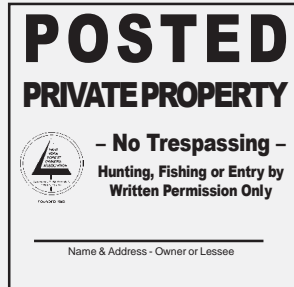
### Total height (feet)

Diameter at breast height (dbh)

(inches)	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
4	.02	.03	.04	.05	.06				
6	.03	.05	.07	.09	.11				
8	.05	.08	.11	.14	.19				
10		.12	.16	.20	.24	.28	.32		
12			.22	.27	.33	.43			
14			.28	.35	.50	.57	.64		
16				.45	.54	.72	.81		
18				.55	.67	.77	.88	1.0	1.1
20				.67	.81	.94	1.1	1.2	1.3
22				.80	.96	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.6
24					1.1	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.9
26					1.3	1.5	1.7	1.9	2.1
28					1.5	1.7	2.0	2.2	2.5
30					1.7	2.0	2.3	2.6	2.8
32						2.2	2.6	2.9	3.2
34						2.5	2.9	3.2	3.6
36						2.8	3.2	3.6	4.0

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# NYFOA General Director Candidates

The Nominating Committee of NYFOA presents the following slate of four nominees to fill the four openings on the statewide Board of Directors. Each opening is for a three-year term as provided by the Bylaws of NYFOA. Please complete the ballot below and mail to NYFOA by February 12, 2005.

**Dan Cleveland - Erin, NY**

Dan is a life-long resident of Chemung County where he has cultivated his passion for forests and wildlife through the years. He owns and actively manages almost 105 acres of woods and wildlife habitat. The majority of his land is under NYS 480-a, yet a portion is managed for wildlife with ponds and shrub planting. Dan sells firewood from forest thinnings and has started to produce maple syrup. Dan serves on the Town Council for Erin and has previous experience on several southern tier boards, such as Work Force NY and United Way for Southern Tier. He is currently a director on the Southern Tier Central Regional Planning & Development Board where he serves on the Physical Resources Advisory Committee. Dan works for the Empire State Regional Council of Carpenters and will eventually retire to focus on his woodlands.

**Cindy King - Minaville, NY**

Cindy has a formal education in English Literature and Art Education. However, she describes her real education as the result of spending all her childhood free time in the woods where she learned about animals, plants and maple sugaring from her parents and a neighboring farmer. When Cindy married Tom Dandrew, an unsuspecting school teacher from Schenectady, she conned him into buying a house while she bought the woods, a stream and a small field behind the house. Within four months of purchase, a neighbor tried to steal some trees, but lost in small claims court. Then Cindy became an MFO. Cindy is active in the Capital District Chapter and serves as the newsletter editor. Professionally, Cindy has worked as a reporter, and editor-in-chief, and middle school art teacher. Cindy loves the woods, loves to hike through the woods, fields, swamps and cliffs in other people's woodlots, and photographs wildflowers wherever and whenever she can. She would like to see woodlands remain on the planet as long as possible, and recognizes the ongoing compromises which must be made between the woods and the demands of the proliferating human race.

**Gene Reinshagen - Painted Post, NY**

Gene is very excited about the potential to serve the NYFOA as a member of the board. He has approximately 150 acres on the southern end of the Seneca Army Depot. He enjoys the woods for many reasons, but is an especially avid hunter and outdoorsman. Gene has worked with other forest owners in the past to nurture their interest in management and stewardship. Gene retired from NYSEG about a year ago. He served NYSEG in several capacities in operations and safety but mostly in operations management.

**Kelly Smallidge - Van Etten, NY**

Kelly lives near Ithaca, in Van Etten, NY. She has been involved with the Southern Fingerlakes Chapter of NYFOA for several years, most recently as a member of the chapter steering committee. She earned a B.S. from ESF in Environmental Studies with a concentration Policy and Management. As a member of NYFOA, her interest in management of private forested land has been driven by a personal goal for an improved understanding of forested land policy. She has enjoyed NYFOA, to witness the development and application of forest policies and their impacts. She and her husband are in the process of purchasing 50 acres in Essex County. "We have looked for a property with specific qualities, and the one we found meets our needs. We look forward to setting some goals and plans. Of special interest will be wildlife management, timber and recreation. We are hopeful the property can be of use to other members of NYFOA and other forestland managers," stated Kelly.

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DETACH AND COMPLETE

MAIL BEFORE FEBRUARY 12, 2005

## Election Form

### VOTE FOR FOUR (4) CANDIDATES

**Dan Cleveland ( )**

**Cindy King ( )**

**Gene Reinshagen ( )**

**Kelly Smallidge ( )**

Write-in candidate \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

\_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Write-in candidate

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter / Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

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



## New York Forest Owners Association

# 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spring Program



The New York Forest Owners Association is holding its annual membership meeting in conjunction with the three day New York Farm Show **February 24-26, 2005** at the NY Fairgrounds in Syracuse. The Farm Show exhibits include equipment used by woodlot owners—chainsaws, woodsplitters, and wood harvesters in addition to equipment used by agricultural producers.

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

NYFOA, DEC, CCE, and SUNY ESF will operate the forestry information booth 8:30 am - 4:00 pm February 24, 25, and 26 in the *International Building*. All workshop presentations will take place in the *DEC Log Cabin*.

The NYFOA **annual meeting will be held on the third day of the Farm Show, Saturday February 26, 2005** in the Martha Eddy Room, Arts and Home Building at 1:00 pm. All members are encouraged to attend the Farm Show prior to the NYFOA annual meeting.

### Schedule of Events

#### *Workshops*

February 24	1:00 pm	Timber Theft
	2:00 pm	The Forest Tent Caterpillar and Other Serious Defoliators.
	3:00 pm	Forest Land Enhancement Program: Federal Money to Help Landowners Improve Their Forests
February 25	10:00 am	Sugar Bush Management
	11:00 am	Timber Sales
	1:00 pm	Thinning your Woodlot
	2:00 pm	Insect and Disease Problems in your Woodlot
	3:00 pm	Quality Deer Management
February 26	10:00 am	New York State Proposal to Tax Woodland by the Value of Your Timber
	11:00 am	Wild Edible Plants and Mushrooms
	1:00 pm	How much is Your Timber Worth: The Market Present and Future

#### *NYFOA Annual Meeting*

February 26	8:30 am	Registration and refreshments - Martha Eddy Room, Arts and Home Building Tour the Farm Show. Check out our Forestry Booth (I55), International Building
	10:00 am	Workshops - DEC Log Cabin (See schedule above)
	12:00 noon	Dutch Treat Lunch
	1:00 pm	Awards Presentation and Annual Membership Meeting, Martha Eddy Room, Arts and Home Building. See more of the Farm Show.

### Notes

- There is no registration fee for the meeting.
- Free admission tickets to the New York Farm Show will be mailed to each NYFOA member.
- Free chainsaw raffles will be held.
- The nature of this program requires activities to be held in three buildings. Therefore it is essential for all members to register at the Arts and Home Building upon arrival Saturday February 26 for program information and to return promptly at 1:00 pm for the awards presentation and the annual membership meeting.

### Directions

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

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

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

# Arranging a Timber Sale

Brian Bullard

Forest cover is the predominant type of natural vegetation in New York State. According to the 1993 USDA Forest Service inventory for New York, approximately 62% of the state is forested. The non-industrial private landowner owns about 85% of the forestland in New York. The industrial forestry sector owns about 8% of our forestlands. Obviously, if the mill owner is to provide a continued supply of raw material (logs) to his mill, he must aggressively pursue timber purchases from private landowners. Since most landowners purchase their property for a different purpose (recreation, permanent residence, farm, etc.) the idea of revenue from a timber sale seems very attractive.

Unfortunately, many landowners enter into a timber sale contract without fully understanding the value of the asset or the contractual controls needed for a landowner to be ultimately satisfied at the completion of the operation. The information provided herein can be used to guide a forest landowner toward the satisfaction that comes from the monetary, ecological

and social rewards of performing good stewardship.

## Demand

We have already established the fact that landowners hold the key to supply, so where does the demand come from?

Timber is most commonly purchased by procurement foresters that work for a sawmill, timber and veneer brokers working for themselves, and independent loggers. There is also another frontier of folks that have forestry backgrounds and are primarily concerned with the purchase of forested property for harvest and resale as smaller acreage recreational property. In each case, these people have the interest of the mill or themselves at the heart of the timber purchase, not necessarily that of the landowner. Purchasing timber or logs at the lowest possible price is their job. This is not to say that there aren't sawmills that can do a good job for you at a fair price. It's just important to know one's motivation before entering into a contract. It is your job to be knowledgeable about your resource.

## Landownership Objectives

For some reason, many landowners don't consider their personal objectives for their property when someone is standing at their threshold with a check for \$20,000 (more or less). Most people own their property for hunting, wildlife observation, hiking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, summer/winter retreat, full-time residence that offers all the above, and much more. Seldom, however, does the landowner consider how all of these uses are impacted by the sale of forest products. A management plan is the primary tool to express landownership goals and objectives. Timber harvests are specified at scheduled times in order to balance the owner's goals and objectives. A timber harvest should be a well planned event, not a hasty action in response to an offer to purchase timber.

## Supply

If you are going to sell your house, you have it appraised. If you are going to sell your car or truck, you check book prices, car dealers or swap sheets for current market value. Many people spend countless hours and dollars to make sure that they get the best deal possible...except those people that sell timber. Only 10-15% of all timber sold statewide is handled by a forestry professional. Needless to say that many operations are conducted where the landowner probably didn't get the best deal possible.

A timber sale begins first by knowing your property boundaries. Whether by survey or existing evidence (fencerows, etc.) you need to know what you own before you can sell it. A timber inventory is the next and most important step to a successful outcome. Knowing the number of trees by species, the volume they contain, and their current "fair-market" value per thousand boardfeet (MBF) is absolutely essential. When

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you pick-up the grocery ads you know what you are willing to pay for bread, milk, corn, etc. Likewise, the timber buyer knows his monetary limits for maple, ash, cherry and oak. The key is doing your research to know what timber values are currently and applying those values to the volume you possess. With this knowledge, you can make an informed decision based on the value of the offers at hand.

Timber values vary dramatically by species and are influenced by average tree size, quality, accessibility, and site conditions (wet, dry, steep, flat, etc.), to name a few. A telephone call to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation office, local consulting foresters, or Cooperative Extension, should result in answers to your questions about current timber prices.

It is important to note that if you cannot get a straight answer as to the number of trees, species, volume and value/MBF from a would-be timber buyer, then you probably shouldn't make the deal.

### Timber Sale Preparation

Now that you know what you own and how much it is worth, you can decide that a timber sale is in your best interest. The next step would be to mark the trees to be cut. For your protection, you should be certain that trees are marked at chest height and on the root collar. This provides additional evidence that a tree was to be harvested long after the tree is gone.

Each tree is tallied as marked so that you will have a 100% inventory of what is being sold. The "fair-market" value can then be applied to derive value. It is our contention that competitive bidding brings the highest prices to a landowner for their timber. For sales with less than 10,000 boardfeet (bf), we recommend negotiating directly with one of several potential buyers, depending upon the species and dollar value. While 10,000 bf of black cherry would be relatively easy to sell, 10,000 bf of beech and hemlock would not.

When selling by bid, a bid prospectus is prepared which includes: a map

showing where the property is located; the location of the timber on the property; access to the timber and log staging area(s); a timber volume estimate; a bid form; a letter which describes the terms and conditions of sale and the bid opening date. Upon opening of the bids, the high bidder is awarded the timber unless their bid does not meet or exceed the "fair-market" value. The landowner always reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Upon selection of the buyer, a contract drawn from the seller's perspective is needed. The sale contract should describe the timber to be cut; the price and payment schedule; penalties for cutting unmarked trees; care and treatment of haul and skid roads during and after logging; erosion prevention measures; owner imposed conditions-no logging during hunting season; owner's right to suspend logging operations due to wet conditions or poor logging practices; amounts and proof of Liability and Worker's Compensation Insurance; a cash bond to assure contract performance may be requested if held by an independent third party trusted by both buyer and seller.

Lastly, show a presence during logging. Inspect the woodlot at times when no logging is taking place or at safe distances from cutting and skidding operations. Meeting the loggers at the landing site is a good place to begin so that everyone knows you are there. This gives both of you the opportunity to

review contract items that may have been forgotten if the timber is cut many months after contract signing.

The NYSDEC can assist with site inspections, general questions, and timber sale marking up to 25 acres per year per landowner. The landowner is then referred to the DEC's list of Cooperating Consulting Foresters to complete the sales process. Consulting Foresters, of course, can assist a landowner from start to finish. Most consultants do not charge a fee for an initial inspection and recommendations.

A timber sale which meets the landowner's objectives can be very rewarding as it aids in the growth and development of the woodlot, provides access for other activities, enhances wildlife habitat and provides an alternative income. All of these attributes (and many more) combined provide a landowner with a great sense of pride and accomplishment for having managed his or her woodlot in accordance with accepted forest stewardship guidelines and the knowledge that he or she knew the value of their timber at the time of sale. 🏡

*Brian Bullard is a Consulting Forester with Forecon Inc., Jamestown, NY. This article originally appears on the Cornell University Forestry Extension Program website at <http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/forestrypage/pubs/infobroch/by%20topic/papers.htm>*



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# *Peach Bark Beetle – Results of Research and News of Work in Progress*

DOUGLAS C. ALLEN

Understandably, forest owners in New York and Pennsylvania remain concerned about peach bark beetle (PBB). With this in mind, I thought results from research recently completed by one of my graduate students, Ryan Hanavan, might be of interest. Ryan conducted a survey and evaluation of this insect, with substantial cooperation and support from the NY Department of Environmental Conservation, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the USDA Forest Service.

## **PBB Distribution and Abundance**

Time and funding did not permit a complete survey of New York State, so we used a USDA Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis report to identify 20 counties with the largest area (acres) of northern hardwoods. A total of 100 stands were selected

randomly and surveyed. We weighted the number of plots placed in each county according to the amount of susceptible forest type the county contained. In other words, the more northern hardwood acreage a county had, the more plots it received.

In each stand selected, information was collected on a number of site and stand conditions including; cutting history, stand composition, stand density (basal area), tree size (diameter), presence or absence and condition of black cherry slash, and so forth. Basal area (BA) is the cross-sectional area of all stems of a species or all stems in a stand measured 4.5 feet from the ground. BA is expressed per unit of land area; for example, number of square feet per acre.

As expected (based on anecdotal evidence and conversations with observant forest owners and foresters)

the two most important factors associated with a buildup of PBB were the availability of cherry slash (logging residue, Fig. 1) and the abundance BA of cherry in a stand relative to other hardwood species. Intuitively, this certainly makes sense. Slash is required for breeding and high breeding success translates into overwintering galleries (=gum spots). The greater the density of the host in a stand, the higher the probability beetles will be able to locate material suitable for laying eggs. Similarly, when beetles of the next generation emerge during summer they are likely to locate live trees needed for overwintering. The study confirmed in an unbiased way what has been observed.

PBB occurred in all counties surveyed (Fig. 2), but the insect was most abundant in three regions; far western NY (Chautauqua), the Catskills (Delaware, Schoharie, eastern Broome) and the north-central region of the state (Cortland, Oswego, Oneida, Jefferson).

Most likely, the current build up of PBB is due to the desire of many landowners to take advantage of black cherry's value. The result has been the creation of large amounts of cherry slash. When all other factors are favorable, most insect populations will increase to the limit of their food supply. Time after time when we entered a recently cut stand we noticed slash, be it discarded bole wood (Fig.3) or branches (Fig. 4), loaded with brood galleries (Fig. 5).

## **The Source of the Population**

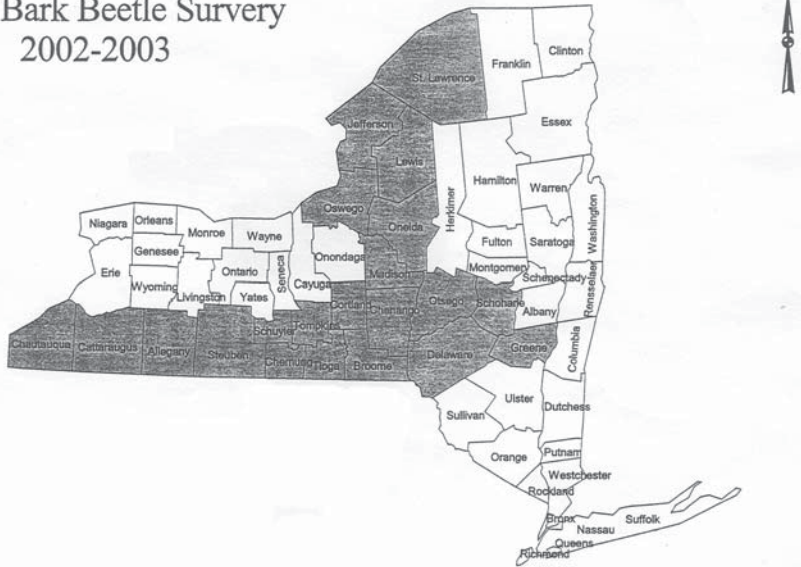
One of the questions we are often asked is "Where do the beetles come



**Figure 1.** Logging residue is where peach bark beetle breeds.



## Peach Bark Beetle Survery 2002-2003



**Figure 2.** New York State counties surveyed for peach bark beetle in 2002 and 2003.

from?” Little is known about the distance a beetle is likely to disperse, but certainly in some instances PBB could build up in slash created one parcel of land and move into an adjacent, uncut, area to overwinter. Therefore, even when slash is not available in a woodlot during the summer, gum produced by overwintering adults may appear in the fall.

Additionally, there is evidence that a “background” or sparse population of the insect maintains itself in black cherry crowns. Ryan felled 30 overstory trees and found evidence of brood galleries in 90% of the dead or dying branches. Like most bark beetles, PBB is able to quickly (i.e., within one or two generations) take advantage of available slash – whether created by logging, stand improvement cuttings or tops broken by wind or ice.

### Management Recommendations

During the summer of 2004, a cutting study was initiated in NY and PA in an attempt to identify the best time (month) to harvest cherry and minimize opportunities for PBB populations to build up in logging

residue. This work will not be completed until 2006. Based on the work described above, coupled with extensive field observations by my research team, several foresters and many forest owners, however, we have been able to verify the following guidelines:

1. The more cherry there is in a stand, the higher the likelihood peach bark beetle will be a concern if brood material becomes available. Relatively susceptible stands (i.e., those with high basal area or stems/acre in black cherry) such as these should be monitored closely for evidence of gum.
2. Because PBB is so abundant now throughout the State, whenever slash is created following a harvest there is a high probability the resident population of this insect will increase. The best preventative measure is to remove slash or destroy it (burn, chip, etc.) on site.
3. We know that trees closest to an abundant source of slash are usually the ones most heavily infested (gummed) by overwintering beetles. Damage can be minimized by making sure there is no slash immediately

adjacent to or touching a cherry. Similarly, spreading slash around the stand, preferably away from cherry if the opportunity exists, will also help to disperse the beetle and prevent excessive gumming in individual trees.

When results of the cutting study become available, it may be possible to make more definitive recommendations for a cultural approach to minimizing PBB damage. A few forest owners have inquired whether a chemical insecticide applied to slash (aimed at beetles before they deposit eggs) or boles of live cherry (aimed at beetles seeking overwintering sites) would be a reasonable control tactic. To the best of my knowledge this has never been tried with PBB. It seems reasonable to assume, however, that *the correct insecticide* applied in either manner at *the correct time* could be very effective. Boles especially would be easy to treat assuming the part of principle concern would be the first log (the most valuable part of

*continued on page 18*

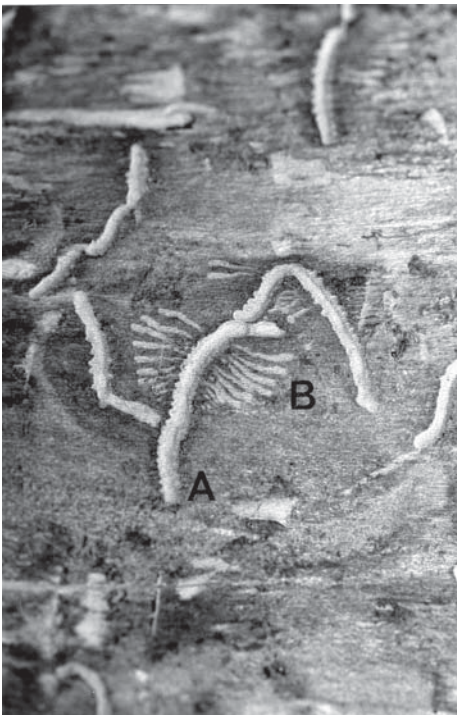


**Figure 3.** Section of a cherry stem loaded with brood galleries.



**Figure 4.** Example of logging residue suitable for brood production. If this material becomes infested and is left adjacent to a live cherry, the latter could be heavily “gummed” in the fall.

the tree from the standpoint of veneer or lumber). Assume further that it is most likely only two years of protection for quality stems would be



**Figure 5.** Close-up of a peach bark beetle brood (egg) gallery (A) with larval galleries (B). The latter radiate away from the brood gallery.

needed before slash deteriorated to the point where it was unsuitable for brood material. In addition, trees of suitable diameter that are likely to be harvested in the near future would not have to be treated, because damage will be removed with the slab or at least restricted to very few of the outer growth rings. Obviously treatments would have to be applied from the ground. This, along with the cost of an approved product, might make the chemical approach too costly. Integrated pest management is a decision-making process and you, the forest owner, are the decision maker. Decisions are based on your management objectives, economics and environmental concerns. Any forest owner interested in pursuing this approach must first check with a Regional Office of DEC to determine what, if any, material might be approved for use against PBB in New York State. ▲

*This is the 78th in the series of articles contributed by Dr. Allen, Professor of Entomology at SUNY-ESF. It is possible to download this collection from the NYS DEC Web page at: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dlf/privland/forprot/health/nyfo/index.html>.*

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# DEC Proposes Changes in Cooperating Forester Program

For many years, owners of forest land have benefited from receiving assistance from private sector professional foresters, supplementing the service available from DEC. Since the mid 1970's, DEC's Cooperating Forester Program has helped to inform forest landowners of the availability of professional assistance from the private sector, facilitated by a referral process to a directory of participating foresters. This program has been refined and amended several times over the past 30 years. Below are highlights of some of the recent proposed changes to the program:

- Combines "Consultant Forester" and "Industrial Forester" lists into a single "Qualified Forester" listing, with an individual's status indicated along with any additional qualifications (SAF "Certified Forester", ACF membership)

- Amends definition of a "Qualified Forester" to read "an individual who has a Bachelors or higher degree in forest management or an associated forestry discipline from a SAF accredited or candidate institution, and at least 3 years of substantial forestry experience... OR a Society of American Foresters Certified Forester; OR a member of the Association of Consulting Foresters"

- Persons on the Cooperating Foresters List as of April 1, 2004 will be grandfathered in.

- Includes language under definition of "Consulting Forester" and "Industrial Forester" to indicate the fiduciary relationship between the forester and either the landowner or the purchaser of the timber.

These proposed changes were announced in November. For further information or to be included on the Cooperating Foresters List contact the DEC Regional Forester in your area.

## NYFOA Response

There were a number of changes proposed by DEC which NYFOA feels are positive updates for their cooperating foresters policy. NYFOA is pleased with the concept of DEC having a list, but feels this is an area where some changes to their proposal might be more in the interest of private forest owners. Below is a copy of a letter that NYFOA sent to the Division of Lands and Forests at the NYSDEC. It reflects NYFOA's response and position with regard to the DEC's proposed changes:

The New York Forest Owners Association supports the Department of Environmental Conservation's continued effort to promote the use of professional foresters in the management of privately owned forests. We would like to submit the following comments concerning the proposed changes to the Cooperative Forester Program:

- NYFOA recommends that any Department of Environmental Conservation publication intended to serve as a reference for landowners maintain a strong distinction between industrial and private consulting foresters. NYFOA's preference would be for separate documents listing private consulting foresters and industrial foresters or separate listings within one document.

- Listings of cooperating foresters should also include guidance on how to select a forester. This guidance may include the use of references, site visits, written contracts and options for payment.

- In order to assist the Department with the implementation of this program change, NYFOA requests an opportunity to review the draft cooperating forester listing prior to publication.

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# Avoid Trespass During Hunting Season

Bob King

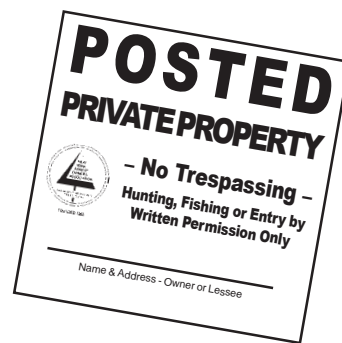
With the hunting season underway, an important reminder for hunters, hikers, and landowners is that trespass can lead to unsafe hunting conditions, vandalism, theft and/or property damage. By knowingly going onto someone else's land without consent, a person violates the law against trespassing and can put everyone at risk especially during the hunting season. Hunters receive training on property rights and know to seek permission in order to access a property for hunting and/or claiming a downed animal taken on nearby land. If given permission, both hunter and landowner should share details about hunting locations, access points, description and parking of vehicles, and expectations regarding use of the land.

## To avoid trespass consider the following:

*Post it!* The posting of No Trespassing signs in plain view and where entry appears to be occurring is an ideal way to inform an unwanted visitor to stay off a property. For enforcement, New York Environmental Conservation Law requires a No Trespassing sign to be a minimum of 11 inches by 11 inches, have a clear message and include the owner's address and signature. Signs have to be posted high enough to be seen and no more than 660 feet apart. Every corner of the property and the

middle of each boundary line must be posted with a sign.

Most local law enforcement agencies encourage the use of No Trespassing signs for enforcement purposes, since a trespasser may be unaware of going on to land without consent. On unposted-open lands, a trespasser must be given verbal notice or a certified return receipt letter before enforcement can be made. Although fenced lands do not require personal contact between landowner and trespasser for enforcement, ideally fenced lands should be posted.



*Prevent it!* Prevent unauthorized entry or access to the property by using gates, fencing, and other physical barriers such as stakes, landscaping and landscape berms. These barriers can help deter trespassing when strategically placed in high traffic areas of unwanted access.

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Ideally, all fencing, stakes and other physical barriers should have no trespassing signs attached in a conspicuous location along with reflectors and other warning devices.

Keep an eye on it! Monitor the property for signs of trespass and unauthorized access. In sensitive areas such as equipment and buildings, use lights, alarms, motion detection lights, cameras or other security equipment.

**Report it!** When you observe trespass, report it immediately to local law enforcement. Call 911 or your local law enforcement phone number. If possible and done safely, get the hunting license number of the trespasser, license plate

number of any suspicious vehicles parked around the property or any other identifying characteristics that can help law enforcement identify the trespasser. By state law, an owner or owner's representative can demand to see but not take possession of a hunters license number for identification purposes. Make sure that employees, family, and neighbors know how and where to report trespass and who has permission to be on the property.

For more information about trespass check out: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/sportsed/posting.html>

*Bob King, Ph.D. works for the Cornell Cooperative Extension in Monroe County*

# Woodlot Calendar

**July 17-19, 2005**

*2005 New York State Maple Tour scheduled in WNY*

The 2005 New York State Maple Tour is scheduled to take place July 17, 18 and 19, 2005 in Western New York. The Batavia Holiday Inn, just off the Thruway Rt. 90 in the city of Batavia will be the host site for the tour. Tour stops will include Maple Sugar Houses in Genesee, Orleans and Wyoming counties. The tour also includes a trade show of maple equipment, supplies and related organizations. Registration materials and detailed tour information will be available in the near future. Plan now to attend in July of 2005. Questions contact Greg Zimpfer at 585 591-1190 or Stephen Childs at 585-786-2251

## New Magazine for NYFOA Members

EFFECTIVE February 1st, all members of NYFOA will receive an additional magazine. The publication, *National Woodlands* is a product of the National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA). NWOA represents many state private forest owner associations and it focuses on issues regarding private forests at the federal government level.

We hope that you enjoy this free additional benefit to your NYFOA membership! Please let us know what you think!

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# Know Your Trees

## WHITE SPRUCE

(*Picea glauca* (Moench) Voss)



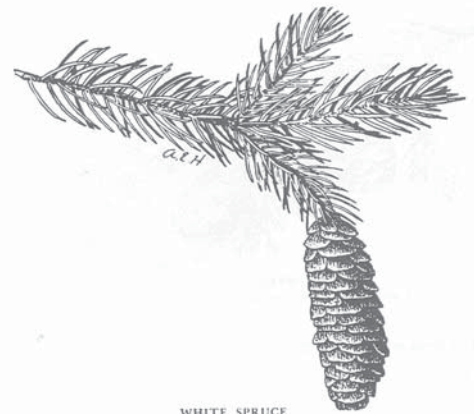
White spruce is confined in its natural distribution to the Adirondacks, reaching its best development in the so-called "spruce flats," but extending also far up the mountain slopes. The wood is in great demand for chemical pulp. Its attractive foliage makes it prized as an ornamental tree, for which purpose it is planted far south of its natural range. It is also planted for Christmas trees.

**Bark**—grayish to pale reddish brown, separating in this scales.

**Twigs**—smooth, slender, yellowish brown in color.

**Leaves**—needle-like borne singly and densely crowded on twigs, light shiny green in color when young, becoming blue-green, ½ inch long, 4-sided in cross-section, without stalk, remaining on the twig from eight to ten years. Odor—strong and rank when crushed.

**Fruit**—a cone with a very small stalk, pendant, from 1½ to 2½ inches long, pale brown in color when ripe, maturing in one year. Cone scales—thin, rounded, papery, entire margined. Seeds—2 under each scale, brown in color, winged, 1/8 inch long, ripening in September.



WHITE SPRUCE  
Branchlet and cone, natural size

**Outstanding features**—papery cone scales; rank odor from crushed needles. ▲

Information originally appears in "Know Your Trees" by J.A. Cope and Fred E. Winch, Jr. and is distributed through Cornell Cooperative Extension. It may also be accessed via their web site at <http://bhort.bh.cornell.edu/tree/trees.htm>



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## MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Materials submitted for the February/March 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](mailto:mmalmshe@syr.edu). Articles, artwork and photos are invited and if requested, are returned after use.



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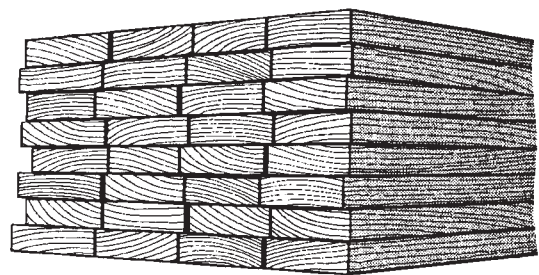
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