

# The New York Forest Owner

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May/June 2005



## Preparing a Rural Site for the Planting of Seedling Trees

*Volume 43 Number 3*



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ASSOCIATION**

Volume 43, Number 3

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**The New York  
Forest Owner**

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**Please address all membership fees and change of address requests to P.O. Box 541, Lima, N.Y. 14485. 1-800-836-3566. Cost of family membership/subscription is \$30.**

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

**COVER:** Image shows many rural lands have incompletely regrown to forest. Correct site preparation can help ensure the success of your reforestation efforts. For complete article on how to prepare a rural site for the planting of seedling trees, see article on page 6. Photo courtesy of Peter Smallidge.

# From The President

2005 will be a year of significant changes for NYFOA. We have completed our merger with New York Woodland Stewards and are finishing the process that will hopefully allow us to retain NYFOA as the name of our merged organization. The intent of this process is to streamline our organization and to operate as a 501c3 not-for-profit corporation. Under this new structure we hope to increase the charitable contributions to NYFOA since they can be tax deductible. Changing corporate structure has been a challenge, but due to the persever-



ance of Dan Palm and Geff Yancey we are almost done.

In April Debbie Gill officially stepped down from her position as office administrator. Debbie has played a major role in the operation of our association for many years and will be missed by us all. Her last duty in April was to train Liana Gooding to take the reins as our new Office Administrator. Liana comes to the position with a wealth of experience and will make a great addition to the NYFOA team. Liana can be contacted at P.O. Box 541, Lima, New York 14485; nyfoainc@hotmail.com; or 1-800-836-3566.

Another staff change anticipated in the fall of 2005 will be the retirement of Dan Palm, our Executive Director. Dan was the first Executive Director of NYFOA and has been instrumental in helping NYFOA develop new ways to serve the forest owners of New

York State. Under Dan's leadership we have been able to transition from an organization of volunteers to one that supplements the work of volunteers through professional leadership. Through Dan's dedication NYFOA has attracted new funding sources and delivered a greater variety of services to our members. We will be starting the search process for a new Executive Director within the next few weeks. Please help us by alerting potential candidates of this exciting opportunity.

With all of these changes and the many activities planned for this year we hope to expand the use of our NYFOA web site, [www.nyfoa.org](http://www.nyfoa.org), as a communications tool. We have posted our 2005 action plan and will be posting regular updates from our Executive Director under the Announcements tab. If there is a section of the action plan or a NYFOA committee that you would like to help with please let us know.

On March 15<sup>th</sup> NYFOA participated in a very successful Forestry Awareness Day at the legislative offices in Albany. This was a great opportunity to share the concerns of the forestry community with our elected officials. After participating in this event for several years I am more convinced than ever that forest owners need greater visibility in Albany. Unless we commit the time and resources to communicate with the state's political leadership they will not focus on our legislative priorities. In Albany the "squeaky wheel gets the grease" while the less aggressive groups get left behind. Forestry Awareness Day also serves as a reminder that we need to strengthen our working partnerships with other landowner groups across the state to be effective in advancing our legislative agenda. 🌲

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

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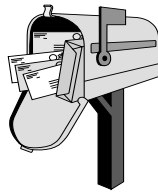
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# In The MAIL



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)

## Great Article

I was fortunate to read an article written by Henry S. Kernan "The View from New York State: One Landowner's Perspective" that was published in the Jan. 2005 National Woodlands magazine.

I found this article to be one of the best articles I have ever read about woodlot management in general. It should be required reading for any woodlot owner!! My congratulations to Mr. Kernan.

-Bob Preston  
Niagara Frontier  
NYFOA Chapter

## NYFOA Spring Meeting

The NYFOA Spring meeting is scheduled for June 3 & 4 at the Arnot Forest. Below please find the agenda for the meeting. All are invited to attend. Overnight lodging is available at the Arnot. Any questions or for more information please contact Lianna Gooding at 800-836-3566 or [nyfoainc@hotmail.com](mailto:nyfoainc@hotmail.com)

### Agenda

#### Friday 3 June

- 5:00 - 7:00 New Board Member Orientation (Alan and Dan)
- 7:00 - 8:00 Dinner (Chef P -for pizza- Smallidge)
- 8:00 Evening Presentation (Topic to be determined)

#### Saturday 4 June

- 7:30 - 8:30 Breakfast (Chef White and Assistant Chef Palm)
- 9:00 - 10:00 Discussion of revised NYFOA by-laws

- 10:00 - 10:15 Break
- 10:15 - 11:00 NYFOA In 2015 - How do we get there?
- 11:00 - 12:00 Board meeting
- 12:00 - 12:30 Lunch (Chef Liana coordinate)
- 12:30 - 2:30 Board meeting

All NYFOA members are invited to attend and participate. The Saturday morning discussions affect members, chapters and the state organization. Input from all is desired and welcome.

The NYFOA In 2015 discussion will build upon the five year Strategic Plan and the four yearly Action Plans NYFOA has developed/implemented. Question such as the following will be asked and open for discussion.

1. Is NYFOA moving in the right direction?
2. What are NYFOA's greatest strengths? How can we build upon them?
3. What are NYFOA's weaknesses? How can we overcome these?
4. What do you want NYFOA to be in 2015? What actions do we need to take to achieve this?

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-Permit Applications	

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# HOW TO: *Implement Forest Farming Practices*

Most public and private forestlands in North America have been modified to varying degrees from years of human activity. Certain high-value “nontimber forest products” have been overexploited and are difficult to find. Forest farming practices can be used by private enterprise to grow desirable nontimber forest products on private lands, to supplement family income, and to allow biodiversity to reestablish within forests.

## Concepts and Principles

In forest farming practices, high-value specialty crops are intentionally cultivated under the protection of a forest overstory that has been modified and managed to provide the appropriate microclimate conditions. Typically these systems are established on private land by thinning an existing forest or woodlot to leave the best crop trees for continued wood production and to create the appropriate conditions for the understory crop to be grown. Then the understory crop is established and intensively managed to provide short-term income.

## Planning and Design

A forest farming practice is usually a small area of land (5 acres or less) whose vertical, horizontal, and below-ground dimensions are managed intensely to produce multiple crops simultaneously. Systems usually focus on a single specialty forest product (SFP) plus timber but can include several products. Examples of such systems include:

- Ginseng + maple syrup + bee products + timber

- Shiitake mushrooms + timber
- Ferns + bear grass + mushrooms + timber
- Ginseng + walnuts + black walnut veneer logs

Thinning, pruning, or adding trees alters the amount of light in stands. Existing stands of trees can be intercropped with annual, perennial, or woody plants. Compatibility among understory and overstory plants and cultural methods is essential.

Before investing time and money in growing a particular SFP, an entrepreneur should obtain production and processing information, locate a source of technical expertise, and make an effort to locate or develop potential markets.

A common problem with developing an enterprise around a new product is the scarcity of technical information. Sources of expertise for producing specialty forest products can be obtained from state forestry and conservation agencies, the Cooperative Extension Service in county offices or state universities, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the USDA Forest Service.

Market analysis and business plans are essential before starting an enterprise. The existence and type of market depend on the SFP. Markets are often local stores or cooperatives. For example, shiitake, matsutake, morel, and chanterelle mushrooms, as well as truffles, may be sold directly to gourmet French and Asian restaurants; Asian and natural food stores; or a middleman or cooperative for resale to larger, more-distant markets. Markets

for decorative products like salal and bear grass are in urban areas and overseas. Decoratives may be sold through cooperatives or to local buyers. Non-local buyers may also be reached through the Internet.

## Economic Benefits

Some products, especially medicinals and botanicals, can have tremendous economic value, and others provide a lower but steady supplemental income. For example,

- Forest-cultivated ginseng averages \$200 to \$400 per pound, depending on how closely the product resembles wild ginseng.
- A cord of wood worth \$50 to \$100 can produce \$500 worth of shiitake mushrooms. In 1990, wholesalers paid from \$3.50 to \$10 per pound for shiitake mushrooms in the Southeast. Retail prices were between \$9 and \$12 per pound.
- Markets for floral decoratives have been steady or increasing. In 1991, buyers paid \$1 for salal, \$1.60 for beargrass, and about \$0.01 for swordfern per pound.

## Conservation Benefits

Forest farming activities modify the forest ecosystem but do not significantly interfere with its crucial contributions of water capture and filtering, soil erosion control, microclimate moderation, and wildlife habitat. Producers should avoid harmful species and follow EPA-approved guidelines for herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides.

## Social Benefits

Forest farming provides opportunities to generate short-term income from existing woodlots with minimum capital investment. Especially on small family farms, this may contribute significantly to rural economic development and diversification. ▲

The information contained within this article first appeared in *Agroforestry Notes* (No. 7, November 1997), a publication of the National Agroforestry Center.

This article appeared in the October 2004 issue of *The Forestry Source* a publication of SAF. It is reprinted with their permission.



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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. Landowner 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:

How do I prepare a rural site for the planting of seedling trees

## ANSWER:

By the middle of the summer, some seedling tree planting projects look lost and hopeless amid a field of tall grasses and weeds. When competing vegetation gets out of hand, we often go out with a mower, weed trimmer, or tank of herbicides to beat back the rival plants. Inevitably, some new seedlings get chopped by errant blades or scorched by chemicals. Weeds can grow inside tree tubes to heroic proportions, stifling the seedling tree inside. Much of this work and loss is unnecessary if the site was prepared properly before the seedling planting began.

Though many forest owners fall into the habit of starting tree planting projects only when the new catalog or tree order form arrives over the winter. You should make an effort to break this habit. Imagine going to plant trees next spring where each site was ready and weed-free. The spacing is laid out and you know exactly how many trees

to order when the order form arrives. Take time this growing season to plan your spring 2006 tree planting, and to correctly prepare your site.

Preparing a tree planting site properly can reduce the use of herbicides (expensive and often avoidable), lead to better tree growth, increase the success rate, and make it

easier to get the bare root seedlings planted before they lose their vigor. Site prep involves mowing, scalping, furrowing, or the judicious use of herbicides before the trees are planted.

When you mow or brushhog a site to be planted, time the mowing to ensure minimal re-growth of competing vegetation before tree planting. For an April planting in New York, mowing in October or November is adequate. The existing vegetation should be cut as low as possible. This will make it easier to plant your trees and reduces the cover of rodents that will chew on seedlings. It is not necessary to clear the entire field, just the zones where trees will be planted. Mowing will need to be repeated as the competing vegetation starts to grow, but if you are



Even with site prep, plantings may require extra attention to control weeds

starting with a cleaner slate, you will be less likely to mow down your seedling investment.

Scalping can be done by hand, or by using a sod cutter – anything that removes the layer of vegetation, but not the top soil, around the planting site. By hand, use a flat spade on a low angle. Kick the blade just under the vegetation to scalp it off from the roots. You should then have a dish-sized patch of bare soil where the seedling will be planted. A sod cutter has an adjustable horizontal blade that slices off the sod layer in long strips. To use these machines, your site should be somewhat smooth. Once the sod is cut, it can be flopped over, rolled up, or just cut away from your planting site. Rolls of sod are very heavy, so don't plan on moving them very far on your own. Once the tree is in, prevent weeds from re-emerging with mulch or a weed mat.

Furrowing is a practical way to improve drainage and create weed-free planting areas simultaneously. A furrowing attachment on a tractor gouges into the soil and flips a layer of topsoil over, on top of the sod. This ridge is ready for planting immediately. The narrow trough will collect water while the new tree seedling is raised above the existing soil surface. Use caution to avoid creating unmowable areas when future vegetation control becomes necessary. It is difficult to operate mowing attachments over the furrow's ridge.

To kill vegetation that might compete with seedling trees, you can use weed flaming devices, available through organic farming sources. A weed flamer burns living vegetation with a blue-hot flame, like a propane torch. The idea is to kill the "crown" of the weed, where it emerges from the soil. The nozzle pattern is adjustable, giving a fan-shaped flame that covers a wider area with each pass. They are not meant to be used on dry or dead vegetation (fire hazard) that is abundant in the spring. Use caution with all tools, but especially flame weeders and herbicides. Of course,



ATVs and similar machines can be outfitted with equipment, like herbicide applicators or cutting heads, to aid in treating vegetation. Photo: David J. Moorhead, The University of Georgia, [www.forestryimages.org](http://www.forestryimages.org)

flaming weeds means hauling around the 20-lb. propane canister, which is done with a dolly cart. Keep a few buckets of water on hand in case the surrounding vegetation begins to burn.

Broad-spectrum herbicides also kill vegetation in your proposed tree planting site. Most herbicides will not work in cooler weather and should be used the growing season before tree planting starts. There are many types now available to consumers. If you use an herbicide, follow the label instructions carefully. Choose an herbicide labeled for the plants you are trying to control. Contact an educator at Cornell Cooperative Extension for herbicide guidelines and precautions.

If you are serious about having as successful a planting project as possible, sample the soil acidity (pH) before deciding which seedlings to purchase. Most trees thrive where the soil pH level is 6.2 to 6.8. Soil amendments are often beneficial for seedling trees. If possible, find out if pH levels at the nursery are recorded and make adjustments to your soil accordingly using lime, peat moss, or other soil conditioners. Technicians with the Soil and Water Conservation

District and educators Cornell Cooperative Extension can give you guidelines on adjusting your tree planting zone soil pH. Any changes you make to the soil will be limited, and will serve mostly to help the seedling tree survive the stress of transplanting.

The old adage of the 5 P's is worth remembering when planting seedling trees:

**Proper Preparation Prevents Poor Performance!**

A new manual about tree selection, site preparation, and other reforestation techniques is being written by a team of educators with the Northeast Cooperative Extension System.

Questions and comments about this article, or the upcoming manual can be directed to the author. 📧

*Response by: Jim Ochterski, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Regional Natural Resources Extension Educator and Chair of the NYFOA Southern Finger Lakes Chapter Steering Committee. 208 Boradway Street, Montour Falls, 14865. email: [jao14@cornell.edu](mailto:jao14@cornell.edu) or phone: (607) 535-7161*



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# Trends in New York Stumpage Prices

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Jerry Brian and Duane Chapman

## Introduction

Timber stumpage prices in New York have increased by as much as 11% per year from 1980 to 2004, a trend that is expected to continue in the long term to the benefit of woodlot owners throughout the State.

Over the past 25 years, changes in international timber market forces and technological advancements in the utilization of different qualities of logs have driven the steady increase in stumpage prices for important species such as Black Cherry, Sugar Maple, Red Maple, and Red Oak, which represent 4 of the most abundant and highest value hardwood species in New York. These species should be considered important species to manage for in a woodlot in terms of timber value.

Although timber production may not be your primary reason for owning a woodlot, it is still useful to understand which species are valuable, what stumpage prices might be if you decide to have a timber sale, factors that drive stumpage price trends, and if you'll lose money if you decide to harvest now. Given the importance of these factors, the purpose of this article is to help you develop an interest in and understanding of recent and current trends in stumpage prices in New York.

## Annual Percentage Rate of Change and Trends in New York Stumpage Prices

As shown in **Table 1**, the annual percentage rate of change from 1980 to 2004 ranged from 5.34% for Red Oak to 11.04% for Sugar Maple. For comparison, the average inflation rate over the same period was 4.95%.

indicating that the value of a board foot of a Sugar Maple tree, in a managed stand on a good site, increased in annual value at over twice the rate of inflation. In other words, depending on the species composition of your woodlot, your investment can grow in value from letting your forest reach financial maturity, especially if a species or stand is experiencing a high stumpage value. Of course, we are talking about price in dollars per board foot here. Since a growing tree increases in volume, the growth in value for a tree reflects both the price increase per board foot as well as the growth in volume.

Understanding exactly why timber from each of the above species has experienced an increase in price can be complicated, so let's start with the primary factors affecting stumpage price trends in New York: changes in forces that drive timber markets and advancements in wood processing technology. Generally speaking, an increase in demand for products made from a particular species will lead to an increase in the stumpage price for that species. For example, an increase in consumer preferences for light colored cabinets led in part to the

increase in stumpage price paid for Sugar Maple over the past decade.

Moreover, the development of new and more efficient cutting, laminating, and drying techniques has allowed wood processors to utilize low quality logs that had little if any value in the past and increase the grade recovery of species such as Red Maple, increasing its stumpage price. Because New York is able to grow some of the highest quality Black Cherry, Sugar Maple, Red Oak, and Red Maple, woodlot owners in New York will continue to realize the benefits of changes in timber markets and technological advancements in the processing of wood products.

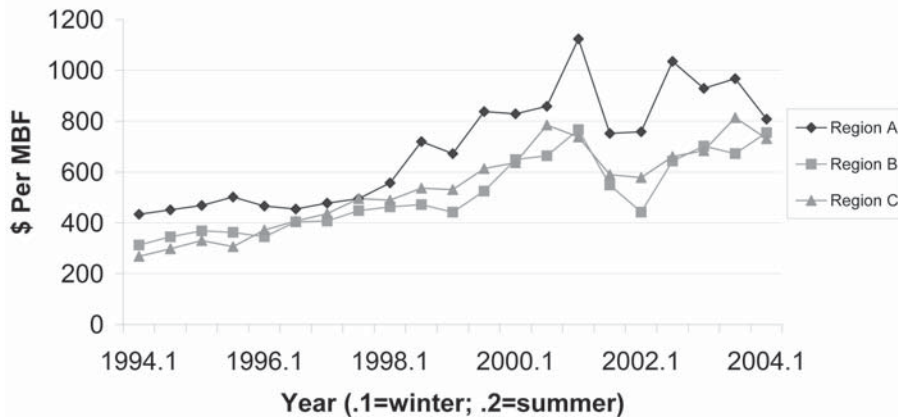
As listed in the bi-annual NYDEC stumpage price report, other important factors affecting stumpage prices in New York include timber quality, logging terrain and accessibility, total volume offered for sale, species mix, average tree size, per acre harvest volume, distance to public roads and markets, landowner requirements such as performance bonds, and season. Local ordinances are also becoming a larger factor. It is important to note that the effect of any of these factors on the price of a particular species may

**Table 1. Annual Percentage Rate of Change in Price For Selected Species in New York 1980-2004**

Species	% Rate of Change
Black Cherry	10.23%
Sugar Maple	11.04%
Red Oak	5.34%
Red Maple	5.36%



**Figure 1. NY Black Cherry Stumpage Prices 1994-2004 (International 1/4-inch Log Rule)**



be more significant in certain areas of the state.

Now that we have a general understanding of which species are important in terms of timber value and what drives stumpage prices, let's take a look at the actual stumpage price trend for a specific species. **Figure 1** provides a look at the stumpage price trend for Black Cherry from 1994 to 2004 for stumpage regions A, B, and C. These three regions are located in Western and Central New York, and generally have higher stumpage prices than regions in the Adirondacks and Hudson Valley for the four species discussed in this article. Black Cherry has always had the highest stumpage price in the state. As you can see from the graph, the price range for Black Cherry has increased from between

approximately \$200 and \$400 in 1994 to between \$600 and \$1000 over the past two years, a trend that is expected to continue across the state as Black Cherry is considered the premier species for veneer and will continue to be in high demand from manufacturers of high-end solid wood furniture. Also, recent advances in manufacturing have allowed furniture manufacturers to not have to rely on big logs of Black Cherry; manufacturers are now able to use smaller pieces of Black Cherry that they previously would have discarded by increasing the efficiency of their cuts and developing the ability to join and laminate small pieces together.

It is important to note that the stumpage prices shown in this figure have all been converted to the International 1/4 inch tree volume rule. Tree volume

rules are used to estimate the standing volume of the merchantable section of the tree, which affects stumpage prices per board foot. Because regions in New York use three different tree volume rules (Doyle, Scribner, and International 1/4 inch), and comparing stumpage prices with different tree volume rules is similar to comparing different currencies (one cannot compare the price of a car in dollars with the price of the same car in Euros without converting the currencies), it is necessary to convert stumpage prices across each of the 12 stumpage regions to one tree volume rule. To convert a Doyle price to an International 1/4 price, divide by 1.659. For example, a Doyle stumpage price of \$800 per thousand board feet would be \$482 in the International 1/4 inch log rule. To convert a Scribner price to an International 1/4 inch price, divide the Scribner price by 1.159.

*continued on page 10*

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## When to Harvest

No discussion of stumpage prices would be complete without asking: how should trends in stumpage prices influence my decision to conduct a timber harvest? Since losing money on a timber harvest is usually not desirable, understanding trends in stumpage prices can provide insight into how you should manage your woodlot for optimal timber production, or a profitable timber sale at the least. Unless time is a factor, such as in the event of a financial emergency, harvesting your trees as soon as they have enough wood fiber to cover the costs of extraction and processing is not usually the best course of action. Stumpage value of most hardwoods increases relative to their diameter, height and grade. Although varying by site and disturbance history, many trees of the species discussed here

continue to gain financially until they are well beyond 20" DBH (diameter at breast height). So, when looking at recent and current trends in stumpage prices, be sure to consider the financial maturity of your respective woodlot.

In addition to choosing the right time to conduct a harvest, the profitability of your timber sale can also be greatly influenced by hiring a professional forester. Although it is possible that a forester that is paid a commission on the timber sale may be more interested in current profits than an owner prefers, most foresters should balance growth potential and forest regeneration considerations against current revenue maximization from a sale. By seeking the input of a professional forester, you can help ensure that the buyer of your timber is adhering to your specific wishes during each step of the process (such as location of the access road, a satisfactory clean-up, and minimal damage to the residual stand) and potentially earn significantly

greater revenue than originally offered by a logger.

In conclusion, in order to take advantage of increasing stumpage prices and ensure that you're conducting a profitable timber sale, be sure to keep in mind which species are most important in your woodlot and what their stumpage prices currently are and expected to be (and avoid high grading!), be patient and know when to harvest, and consider seeking professional assistance. ▲

*Information provided in this article was obtained from "Timber Prices: A Guide for Woodlot Owners in New York State", by Jerry Brian and Duane Chapman. Jerry Brian is a graduate student in the Department of Applied Economics and Management at Cornell University, and Duane Chapman is a Professor in the same department. To obtain electronic or hard copies of this Cornell AEM Extension Bulletin, please contact Carol Thomson at cmt8@cornell.edu.*



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You may be one of the thousands of people who have driven by the Big Flats Plant Materials Center (PMC) near Corning, NY and always wondered what they do there. By special arrangement, the Southern Finger Lakes Chapter of NYFOA would like to invite all NYFOA members to join us on a tour of this unique facility this summer. The Big Flats PMC is the only USDA plant material center in New York State. The Natural Resources Conservation Service has operated the 200-acre facility since 1940. In 2005, they are continuing to develop new technology for improving forage, buffer strips, cover crops, living snow fences and windbreaks planted in the Northeast.

Many conservation plants and trees are selectively bred to bring out the traits that help them thrive in a particular climate. For example, the 'Streamco' purple willow was developed and released at this facility for erosion control around stream banks in the Northeast. The hybrid poplar 'Spike', adapted for windbreaks and woody biomass fuel production, was also selected at the Big Flats PMC in 1996. Other conservation plants developed here are 'Niagara' big bluestem grass, 'Lathco' flat pea, and 'Glacial Lake' butterfly weed.

On the tour, you will see the greenhouses where the plants and trees are propagated and learn the basics of plant breeding. On a tour wagon, we will cruise the rest of the property, looking closely at the many different kinds of plants, shrubs, and trees currently under development. We will serve refreshments at the beginning of the tour and if you would like to bring a picnic lunch, we will have time afterwards to enjoy the mid-summer weather and get to know each other. Please feel welcome to join us on this very special *free* tour. The tour will receive one category 1 CFE credit for Society of American Foresters.

## Getting to the Big Flats PMC

The Big Flats PMC is located in the Southern Tier of central New York about 4 miles east of Corning and about 1 hour south of Ithaca, NY. Take Rte. 17 / I-86 east from Corning about 4 miles or west from Horseheads about 5 miles. Exit at Rte. 352 (Exit 48, East Corning). Follow Rte. 352 east about 1.5 miles and the PMC is on the left side of the road.

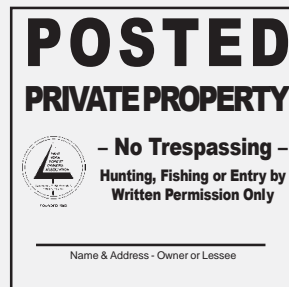
To register, or for further information or directions, please call Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County, a co-sponsor of this tour at (607) 535-7161 by July 6, 2005. 



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# Planning the Future Forest

Thom J. McEvoy

The United States is one of a small pantheon of countries in the world with a high proportion of privately owned forests. Almost 75 percent of our timberlands are privately held by more than ten million owners. Of these, roughly two million non-industrial private forest (NIPF) holdings are in tracts of 25 or more acres representing a combined 181 million acres of productive woodlands. This means that most U.S. timber is owned by individuals and families. Although recent surveys have discovered that about half of this population intends to initiate harvests from their lands within the next ten years, only five percent of NIPF owners—with a combined 39 percent of the acreage—say they have a written forest management plan in hand. With so few NIPF owners using planning methods, there is a real cause for concern about the long-term disposition of forests, when lands change hands.

Poor planning is one of the principal reasons woodland owners report negative experiences with forestry professionals before any logging activity begins. This is especially true for owners who decide to work directly with logging contractors. Without planning, forest owners have no conception of 'good' versus 'bad' practices and a bad experience (real or perceived) tends to sour owners to the idea of long-term planning. In other words, owners who are burned by bad logging are less likely to develop inter-generational plans that pass woodlands within the family, probably because they would rather forget about a bad experience than retain a constant reminder of their mistakes.

Getting woodland owners to do forest management planning is a necessary prerequisite to demonstrating among these same owners the need for planning the disposition of woodlands in the



*Almost 75 percent of our timberlands are privately held by more than ten million owners.*

family estate. The successful management experiences that result from good planning are an excellent incentive for owners who want to share the rewards they've realized from forests with heirs and future generations. "Nothing succeeds like success," and fundamental to success with forests—both near-term and long-term—is good planning.

With fewer than one out of ten NIPF owners using written plans to guide management of their lands, it is safe to assume by inference that a smaller number—possibly significantly smaller—has planned for woodlands in their estates. If this is true—that fewer than five percent of all NIPF owners have planned for the disposition of forests in their estates—then the fate of more than 60 percent of U.S. timberlands, at least 110 million acres, is unknown. Given increasing rates of migration from city to country, and

subdivision of land for housing that follows, the long-term prognosis for forestry in some parts of the country is not good.

Poor planning—or no planning—usually results in parcelization of land (the division of a given tract into smaller and smaller units). The potentially negative effects of parcelization on the long-term fate of forests are so significant that we can no longer afford to speculate. A pending acceleration in the rate of parcelization is now perceived by many in forestry to be one of two major threats to woodlands in the U.S. The other—which underscores the significance of an increasingly divided landscape—is the threat of invasive species on forest ecosystems. Approximately 80 invasive and pernicious species in the U.S. are now responsible for more than \$100 billion in losses (mostly agricultural), and the rates of invasion and

resulting losses are expected to increase.

No where is the effect of forest parcelization more apparent than in Vermont; a small, rural and densely forested state in northern New England. Its landscape—virtually all of which is owned by families—lies within an easy half-day drive of nearly a quarter of the U.S. population. Market pressure to subdivide land for development is high and the trend is increasing, especially when forest land is a primary asset that must be divided among family to settle an estate.

Unplanned estates of “land-rich-cash-poor” decedents are often sold to the highest bidder or divvied among heirs to settle an estate. Valuable timber is liquidated before its time and cut-over lands are sold to homesteaders or to others who care little about long-term forest benefits. The more parcelized a forest becomes, the more fragmented its purpose. Vital habitats and productive woodlands—that help support sustainable, Vermont-like communities—are converted into developed uses. Eventually, Vermont’s forest landscape becomes a façade for tourists; a caricature of what it once was. Unless forest owners can see the benefits of long-term forest management, and the advantages of passing lands intact and within the family, within two generations Vermont will evolve from a rural, agrarian state into a service-oriented economy that supports an enclave of second-homes.

This was the setting for a recently completed project of mine called “Estate Planning for Woodland Owning Families.” The two-year effort was supported with a grant from the state forester’s office but with federal funds provided by the U.S. Forest Service. Our goal was to develop a cooperative venture of organizations concerned with the future of forests. And, through them, host workshops around the state for forest-owning families and their advisors. Workshop methods and content varied from two-hour ‘interactive television’ lectures to day-long workshops. Instructors were committed to teaching estate planning methods that are both easy to learn and adaptable to any combination

of goals; from maximizing timber values to creating ecological reserves.

The curriculum was purposely designed to effect communication between spouses, and between parents and children. Subjects included: current estate tax laws that apply to forest owners, the potential effects of parcelization on fragmentation of purpose, what to look for in an estate planner, and overviews of the various strategies for passing lands within the family, such as limited liability companies, family partnerships, S-corporations and land trusts.

Of the many different methods we used to advertise the workshops, from magazine advertisements to association newsletters and direct mail invitations, the most effective method was ‘word of mouth.’ Many workshop participants told us they learned of a workshop—and decided to attend—based on personal communication, usually with a neighbor, consulting forester or some other person whom they trusted. Most workshop groups were small; anywhere from five to 30 participants. Day-long workshops, featuring other subjects in addition to estate planning, and evening workshops that focused only on planning methods, were, by far, more effective (and considerably less expensive) than ‘interactive television.’

Generally, participants gave the workshops good scores overall (averaging 4.4 on a Likert Scale between 1 and 5). The most popular topics usually dealt with strategies for passing lands and with the process of developing long-range plans. Participants were less interested in tax-related subjects. All workshop presentations were backstopped with copies of the presenter’s notes (usually PowerPoint slides formatted six frames to a page), and with supporting popular articles on estate planning for woodlands. Our evaluations indicated that participants were very appreciative of the written materials, both to help them recall points discussed during the workshop and to offer more detail and references on technical subjects.

Participants were asked to estimate the



*Poor planning is one of the principal reasons woodland owners report negative experiences with forestry professionals before any logging activity begins.*

chances of them initiating, completing or amending an estate plan for their woodlands—as a direct result of having attended a workshop. The overall response was no better than ‘maybe,’ indicating that workshop participation alone was not sufficient to compel clients to do estate planning. This last point is an indicator of just how challenging it is to change any behavior. Meaningful progress on estate planning of any kind requires owners to contemplate their own mortality, which is difficult for most owners and impossible for some. When forest is the principal asset, problems are exacerbated, especially for owners who want to keep lands intact while also divvying the value of forest assets to children or other heirs some of whom want nothing to do with forests.

Those workshop goers who indicated in the evaluations that they do not intend to provide for woodlands in their estates told us they needed more information before setting a plan in motion. Others said “legal costs are too expensive;” “I am reluctant to tamper with assets while

*continued on page 14*





Good planning and intelligent harvesting create productive forests that will serve generations of owners.

still alive;” and the most prophetic: “I trust my heirs to do the right thing.” Some also told us that the availability of ‘planning grants’—possibly as a federal cost-share program—would provide an adequate incentive to seek out an estate planner and initiate the process of forest planning.


Workshop participants also told us that hearing the experiences of peers was extremely valuable. In fact, the effects of sharing were so significant that a proposal to follow-up the project in Vermont with a national effort to catalogue success stories of woodland owners who develop viable plans to pass managed forests within their families was a logical ‘next step.’

That project, known as ‘Planning the Future Forest,’ was recently proposed and selected for funding with a grant from the U.S. Forest Service. Our mission over the next three years is to identify woodland owning families that have developed long-range, intergenerational plans for their forests and get them to tell us their stories. Of the many successful endeavors we hope to discover, 10 or 12 will be profiled as ‘case studies’ in a book titled: *Planning the Future Forest*.

Woodland owners who understand the impacts of forest parcelization on fragmentation of purpose are more willing to consider employing land conservation tactics aimed at keeping lands in the family, intact and forest functions healthy. The purpose of this project is to document some of the many success stories where woodland owning

families have protected their lands from development, and to share these stories with other families that need help developing their own strategies to protect forest ecosystems.

Also, most of the subject-related material on estate planning that is available to forest owners focuses on ‘preservation of wealth’ and not on the importance and benefits of healthy, productive forests. For example, a primary concern of parents who leave assets to children is to maintain a sense of family among children after they are gone. Yet, even proportionally equal divisions of assets can lead to fatal bickering between children, destroying the very fabric parents intended to maintain. When forest lands are left to children intact, with clear directions as to how lands are to be managed and used and how benefits are to be shared, surviving children are much more likely to come together as family for the purposes of managing forests, usually as a legacy to their parents, and thus establishing a pattern for future generations.

The *Planning the Future Forest* project has just begun and we’re looking for woodland owning families that are willing to share their stories with others. Even those with stories to tell but prefer to remain anonymous are encouraged to contact us. If you know of woodland owners who fit the bill, or you can lead us to organizations or programs in your state that encourage long-range forest planning, feel free to send me a note at: [thomas.mcevoy@uvm.edu](mailto:thomas.mcevoy@uvm.edu), or call 802-656-2913. *Planning the Future Forest* is expected to be in print by fall 2007. 

This article has been extracted from *Planning the Future Forest*, first published in *The Forest Products Equipment Journal* (September 2004). It also appeared in the October 2004 issue of *National Woodlands* and is reprinted with their permission. The author is Associate Professor and Extension Forester in the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Vermont.



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# Wild Things in Your Woodlands

By Kristi Sullivan

## CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (*DENDROICA PENNSYLVANICA*)



*The chestnut-sided warbler is a small songbird, about 4-5 inches in size. Male chestnut-sided warblers have yellow crowns, a black eye-line and moustache, and chestnut-colored streaks along their sides. Females look similar, though they have less black on the face, and less pronounced chestnut streaking along the side.*


May is the month of return for many birds, like the chestnut-sided warbler, that call New York forests home. Each year this easily recognizable bird spends its winters in mixed-species flocks in the moist, tropical forests of Central America. In the spring, the chestnut-sided warbler leaves its sunny paradise, making the long journey back to the eastern United States and Canada to breed and raise its young.

Once here, the chestnut-sided warbler prefers to nest in young, deciduous forests created by timber harvesting or natural disturbances, overgrown pastures and fields, and other brushy areas. In the midst of dense vegetation, this active bird searches the underside of leaves for insects, hopping among the branches and repeatedly cocking its tail up above its back like a wren.

Once a rare bird in the northeastern United States, the chestnut-sided warbler increased dramatically in the 1900s as forests regrew from abandoned agricultural land and suitable habitat was created. Today, it is one of the most common warblers breeding in New York State. However, its numbers

are slowly declining as our forests mature and the availability of early successional habitats becomes limited.

The best way to create habitat for the chestnut-sided warbler is to provide young, brushy forest growth. Landowners can create optimal habitat by clearcutting, but even light thinnings, or moderate or heavy partial harvests can open up the canopy enough to allow light to reach the forest floor and encourage the necessary understory growth. Maintaining

deer populations at low enough levels to avoid overbrowsing of the understory also can prevent unfavorable effects on this bird's habitat. 

*Kristi Sullivan coordinates the Conservation Education Program at Cornell's Arnot Forest. More information on managing habitat for wildlife, as well as upcoming educational programs at the Arnot Forest can be found by visiting the Arnot Conservation Education Program web site at [www.dnr.cornell.edu/arnot/acep/](http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/arnot/acep/). This article is produced as a joint venture of Cornell and NYFOA to help landowners and the public enjoy the full benefits of forest resources.*

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# Acorn Planting

Ed and Wanda Piestrak

We have always been fascinated with the idea of planting oak trees from acorns found in our forest. Approximately two years ago we attended a MFO Training session and discussed the idea with one of the attendees. He was quite knowledgeable and had first hand experience with the procedure for planting acorns. He graciously shared his information so we decided to try our hand at it.

We obtained a large amount of sawdust and wood shavings from my son's planer and took the supplies to our Steuben Country tree farm.

All we needed were the acorns. Well, let me tell you this, for the past two years we have not found *one* (I repeat, *one*) oak acorn on our property and we have a lot of oak trees. We had just about given up on the acorn planting idea when I spoke to a friend, Mark Fey, last fall and explained how we were not able to find any acorns. He related that just that day he was in his woodlot and it was literally raining chestnut acorns onto him. He lives about 20 miles from our farm. He agreed to bring us a couple hundred of them the next day.

We decided to try something different since the seed source was not from our property. We went into a

cleared area of the property and used the following method of planting. We dug a hole about six to eight inches in depth, placed potting soil in the bottom, and then mixed potting soil with the natural soil. About 1½ inches below the surface of the earth, we planted two or three acorns and covered them with soil. We placed a four-foot tree tube over the acorns and secured the tube with a four foot 1½ x 1½ treated stake. We marked the stake with the date and type of acorn. We repeated that procedure about thirty times.

The remaining acorns were placed in a metal can and very little soil was added. We would wait a couple of weeks to plant the remaining ones. Well, did we get a surprise in two weeks when we looked into the can. Every one of the acorns had a 1" or so new growth coming out of it. We were excited. So we immediately went to work planting these. We utilized the same procedure except we only placed

one acorn in each tree tube. Since they all appeared to be growing, we felt one was sufficient. The tree tubes were placed approximately two inches into the ground to discourage any bushy-tailed, four-legged creatures from removing them. We again marked the tubes with the date and type. As a test, we planted a couple dozen of them the same way but without the tube. We marked the site of each with a metal flag. It will be interesting to see if our four-legged friends remove any.

Now all we have to do is observe the growing process this year. Also, we have kept the sawdust and wood shaving just incase our oak trees decide to produce some acorns this coming fall. But then again, that will be another experience to discuss in the future. 🌱

*Ed and Wanda Piestrak's property is in Steuben County, NY. They are members of the Western Finger Lakes chapter of NYFO, MFO volunteers and Tree Farmers.*



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# To Know a Tree

Shavonne Sargent

New York State is over 62% forested, so it is common for anyone to encounter, view, or walk through a forest, park or setting that contains trees. To many, the woods are composed of trees with brown bark and green leaves – like the elementary school drawing of a tree. And it's understandable – in courses on tree identification, the first complaint many people have is that “they all look the same!” But there are many different species of trees out there, and believe it or not, they don't all look alike. Like people, no tree is exactly the same; they come in many shapes, sizes and colors. Families of trees have common features that make them recognizable from other families. But how does one begin to see these differences in the forest?

The first step is to train your eyes. Look closely at color, shape and size of leaves, bark, twigs, buds, fruit, branches and the crown. The most common characteristics of trees are

evident in these observations. Always be sure you are looking at parts of the right tree when you are identifying. It is easy to mix up the canopies of trees or fallen leaves on the forest floor with other trees growing nearby. Also, try to look at several different pieces because even trees of the same species vary some in their features.

Ask yourself questions about the tree – where is it growing? Is it a shrub or an immature tree? Does it bear fruit, seeds or cones of any kind? What are its most distinctive marks? Is it a tree that loses its leaves in the winter (deciduous) or does it retain its leaves in the winter (evergreen)? Use an elimination process. By answering some of the above questions, you can easily rule out a number of species.

As mentioned before, one species of tree doesn't always look exactly the same. Tree characteristics vary due to factors such as site, health, and genetics. The more trees you look at closely, the sharper your identification skills

will be. You will learn to see around the variation between trees of the same species and develop your own set of characteristics for positive identification.

Share in this learning endeavor with family, friends or peers! It is often easier when two or more people bring their knowledge to the field. Taking woods walks with family and friends is a good way to work on your identification skills. Seek out local programs, field days or workshops in tree identification. Learning from an expert will give you a jump start.

Most of these pointers require a source to compare your observations against. If you are with an expert in the woods, they can be your “field guide.” But to begin observing trees on your own or with a companion, you should purchase a tree identification book. In New York, start with *Know Your Trees* available from Cornell Cooperative Extension. Other field guides are available as well. Field guides will give you pictures and descriptions of the different species of trees and their individual characteristics. Field guides help you to answer the questions you ask about individual trees, and allow you to figure out which trees grow in your region or location.

Learning the trees around you is a useful and enjoyable endeavor, particularly if you own forestland. So get out there and start seeing the forest for the trees! 🌲

Shavonne Sargent, Forest Resources Extension Program Assistant, Cornell University, Department of Natural Resources, Ithaca, NY 14853. *This article is produced as a joint venture of Cornell and NYFOA to help landowners and the public enjoy the full benefits of forest resources.*





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# Commentary – New York’s Forest Tax Laws

Scott K. Gray III

I always look forward with relish to the commentaries of Henry Kernan and his treatise on the Forest Tax Law in the November/December issue provided the usual fascinating reading.

His figure of 590,000 acres under 480 A is not a pittance but judging how many acres makes a success of a forest tax law is a complex philosophical challenge. If it gives financial relief to only those who desperately need it, perhaps that is success. If forest management success were to be measured by the number of owners and their acreages who, without tax abatement, have and follow a management plan prepared by a professional forester, we add another perspective.

North of the Thruway we have been seeing some monumental changes in the past few decades as pulp and paper mills have bowed out, unable to compete in the market place. Diamond International started the trend even though they had one of the best timber management programs in the Adirondacks. They were followed by Newton Falls Paper Co., Lyons Falls Paper Co., and Champion International. The Lyons Falls ownership was a partner to the first major conservation easement agreement with NYS. They agreed to utilize best management practices while continuing to harvest timber, but paying only a portion of the property taxes. Several others have followed their lead with an additional 260,000 acres of International Paper Co. lands and 104,000 acres from Lyme Timber Co., now conservation easements will provide tax abatement to some half million acres in the Adirondacks. Add to that the land already under 480 and 480A and tax relief for many of the major owners provides long term prospects for forest management success.

So where does that leave the small forest owners? Scores of years of high grading in the Adirondacks and on Tug Hill have resulted in substantial acreages of low value forests. Consider first that the average tract has 8-10% of non forest land. Add to that the blowdowns, fire, the 1995 microburst (Derecho), ice storms, insect and disease episodes, forest decline in general, and the high risk of owning forest lands becomes apparent. My observations in the western Adirondacks raise serious concerns about the Northern hardwood forests. High grading followed by Beech bark disease and other factors have led to substantial acreages of primarily beech sprout growth and or aggressive fern complexes, with little else in the under story. How much tax can the average forest owner afford to pay on such land were limited financial return can be realized? Consider yourself fortunate if your woodlot happens to consist primarily of high quality saw timber sized acreage.

The two towns in which I own forest land have just gone to 100% full value assessment. Current comparable sales set the new values at about \$500/acre. That translates to an annual tax of \$14.88/acre on my 39.7 acre parcel in the Town of New Bremen, Lewis County (primarily a Scotch pine plantation which I needed to provide access to my adjacent lands). A second New Bremen parcel protected by the original 480 tax law costs \$4.34/acre while an adjacent Town of Watson parcel, also under 480 runs \$8.85/acre annually. The latest re-evaluation was primarily done on forest land, resulting in shifting some burden away from improved properties. And here is one more tidbit for you: the Town of Webb in Herkimer Co. breaks out the Land tax on my improved property there into three categories: County tax \$101.93

(17%), Town tax \$146.23 (25%), and Medicaid \$345 (58%). Draw your own conclusions.

A recent Adirondack land sale of several thousand acres is reputed to have been consummated at \$1,200/acre. If sales continue at that level my unprotected New Bremen parcel would rise to \$33/acre and with Mr. Kernan’s example of \$1,580/acre in his area, that would translate to \$42/acre tax here.

I also believe we need a different approach to taxing forest land and it needs to be simple! As a starting point I will suggest that all forest/wild land over 25 acres be assessed at 40% of Full Value. To qualify for that protection the landowner would need to file a 10 year management plan, prepared by a “qualified Forester” (new definition), with the Town assessor. The landowner would sign the plan as signifying acceptance and intention to follow it but be unconstrained by firm time lines. Any loss to the local tax base exceeding 1% would be made up by NYS as is currently legislated. The 6% yield tax would stay. Refine with the Wisdom of Solomon.

Most citizens appreciate and desire to continue to enjoy the value contributed to our lives by forest/wild lands. Much like Agricultural Districts, perhaps we are getting closer, particularly in rapidly expanding urban areas, to a zoning/planning exercise to determine how much undeveloped land we want and where we want it. As we watch development creep, and highest and best use assessment is the tax driver, urban sprawl will negatively affect all of our lives in the long run. And who but the very wealthy will be able to own the forests which so many families now cherish and carefully tend for fellow citizens and future owners? 🌲

*Scott Gray III resides in Lowville, NY and is a member of NYFOA.*

# Ecology: Ginseng Threatened by Bambi's Appetite

Erik Stokstad

With few natural predators left, deer are running rampant across much of eastern North America and Europe. In addition to damaging crops, raising the risk of Lyme disease, and smashing into cars, white-tailed deer are eating their way through forests. "This is a widespread conservation problem," says Lee Frelich of the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Indeed, a detailed, 5-year forest survey of ginseng reveals that deer, if not checked, will almost certainly drive the economically valuable medicinal plant to extinction in the wild. The survey was conducted by James McGraw, a plant ecologist at West Virginia University in Morgantown, and his graduate student Mary Ann Furedi. Ginseng is one of the most widely harvested medicinal plants in the United States; in 2003, 34,084 kilograms were exported, mainly to Asia, where wild ginseng root fetches a premium.

Although the plant (*Panax quinquefolius*) ranges from Georgia to Quebec, it is slowgrowing and scarce everywhere. To determine the population trends of ginseng, McGraw and Furedi began a census in West Virginia forests. For 5 years, they checked seven populations of wild ginseng every 3 weeks during the spring and summer. They quickly noticed that plants were disappearing.

In some places, all of the largest, most fertile plants were gone by mid-August. At first they suspected ginseng harvesters, but the valuable roots were left. Cameras confirmed that deer were at work. The nibbled plants are less likely to reproduce, and after repeated grazing, they die. Indeed, during the study, populations declined by 2.7% per year on average. McGraw and Furedi then ran a ginseng population viability analysis.

By plugging in the sizes of plants in various populations, mortality rates, and other factors, they learned that current ginseng populations must contain at least 800 plants in order to have a 95% chance of surviving for 100 years. That's bad news. A broader survey they conducted of 36 ginseng populations across eight states revealed that the median size was just 93 plants and the largest was only 406 plants. At the current rate of grazing, all of these populations "are fluctuating toward extinction," McGraw concludes. Even the biggest population has only a 57% chance of surviving this century.

"This paper has high significance because it's one of the first demonstrations of the direct impact of deer browsing on understory plants," says Daniel Gagnon of the University of Quebec, Montreal. And deer eat more than ginseng. "We could lose a lot of understory species in the next century if these browsing rates continue," McGraw says. That in turn could affect birds, small mammals, and other wildlife that rely on these plants. McGraw and Furedi calculate that browsing rates must be cut in half to guarantee a 95% chance of survival for any of the 36 ginseng populations they surveyed. That has direct management implications, says Donald Waller of

the University of Wisconsin, Madison. "We should be encouraging the recovery of large predators like wolves. It also suggests we should be increasing the effectiveness of human hunting" by emphasizing the killing of does rather than bucks, he adds. Such deer control measures are controversial: Reintroduction of predators like wolves faces logistical as well as political hurdles, for example.

Meanwhile, the deer keep munching. 🌿

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# The Chronology of a Forest Steward – 2004

The Palm Family, brothers Charles and Daniel and their wives Cora and Linda, own 485 acres of forestland in Delaware County. This land lies within the Towns of Stamford and Roxbury. It drains into both the East and West branches of the Delaware River. The property is certified as a Tree Farm and as a Watershed Agricultural Council participating partner. Below is a synopsis of the stewardship activities conducted on this land during 2004.

## January

Initiated the five year update of 480a plans through Northeast Timber Services with funding from the Watershed Agricultural Council.

## February

Received notice that a Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP) application for 15 acres submitted in 2003 was not funded.

## March

Trimmed and thinned around 20 wild Apple trees.

## April

Received approval of 480a updates. Ten acres of TSI marked by Northeast Timber Services. TSI work initiated.

## May

Moved into camp for turkey season. Harvested a 24 pound tom on day four with 2 inches of snow on the ground. Completed TSI. Harvested a 16 pound hen with 8" beard last week of season. Split 35 face cords of firewood cut last fall. Planted 100 wildlife shrubs along a small feeder stream to Town Brook. Submitted application to Watershed Agricultural Council for forest road remediation project.

## June

Prepared food plots seeding with buck wheat and clover. Brush hogged feeding lanes for turkey hens and poults in open field area.

## July

Hosted Green Connections tour of 25 teenage girls participating in an environmental program at a school in the Bronx. Focus of tour was wildlife habitat management.

## August

Hosted Eastern Refresher for MFOs. Again focus was on wildlife habitat management and power line ROW management. Brush hogged trails and one third of open areas in an effort to provide a variety of song bird habitats. Trimmed Christmas trees. Cleared all log roads and recreation trails. Removed undesirable tree from around our limited number of native oak trees.

## September

Chunked up and drew out of woods about 25 face cords of firewood from trees cut during TSI work in May. Put up bow and arrow hunting tree stands. Received approval of road remediation application. Completed lay out of roads working with Northeast Timber Services.

## October

Moved to camp for turkey and deer season. Both Charlie and I harvested two turkeys. Bernie Braun, New York City Watershed qualified consulting forester, completed road remediation work including 10,164 feet of road layout, 2,615 feet of road relocation, 143 water bars and 5 broad based dips. Started delivering firewood.

## November

Finished firewood delivery – should have cut more! Unsuccessful bow and rifle season for deer. Only second time in 35 years I didn't get a buck. Too many coyotes.

## December

Cut Christmas tree. Drew up action plan for next year. Beyond normal maintenance and continuing the firewood effort the plan includes painting of 5 miles of boundary, competing 10 acres TSI, and coordinating with Northeast Timber Services the marking and sale of a 171 acre commercial harvest. 🌲

*Daniel Palm, Ph.D. is a member of NYFOA and Catskill Forest Association (CFA) and is an active MFO. He serves as Executive Director of NYFOA and is a Watershed Agricultural Council Board member and Chair of the Council's Forestry Committee.*



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# Woodlot Calendar

June 2-4, 2005

## *NYFOA Spring meeting*

The NYFOA Spring meeting is scheduled for June 3 & 4 at the Arnot Forest. See page 4 for the full agenda for the meeting. All are invited to attend. Overnite lodging is available at the Arnot. Any questions or for more information please contact Lianna Gooding at 800-836-3566 or nyfoainc@hotmail.com

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 607-255-1658



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# Know Your Trees

## EASTERN HEMLOCK

(*Tsuga canadensis* (Linnaeus) Carriere)



*Hemlock* is a valuable forest tree very widely distributed throughout the state, particularly common on northern exposures, shaded gorges, steep mountain slopes, and borders of deep swamps. The wood is light, not strong, coarse-grained, brittle, not durable, splinters easily, and is light brown in color. It is largely manufactured into construction lumber and is also in demand for mechanical pulp.

*Bark*—reddish to grayish brown in color, with shallow, broad connecting ridges; inner bark bright cinnamon red in color. The high-tannin content of the bark is of commercial value in tanning leather.

*Twigs*—slender, yellowish to grayish brown in color, rough when needles are shed.

*Winter buds*—very small, reddish brown in color, not resinous-coated.

*Leaves*—borne singly, twisting to appear 2-ranked with a third row pointing forward on top of the twig; with distinct short stalk, flat, 1/2 inch long, rounded or notched at the apex, dark green in color above, paler below with 2 white lines, persistent from two to three years.

*Fruit*—a cone, stalked, pendant, 3/4 inch long, ripening in one year, grayish



brown in color when mature, falling during the winter following maturity. Cone scales—with rounded entire margins. Seeds—in pairs, winged, light brown in color, 1/16 inch long, ripening in September.

*Outstanding features*—needles with tiny stalks; small cones. 

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 July/August 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](mailto:mmalmshe@syr.edu) Articles, artwork and photos are invited and if requested, are returned after use.

**Deadline for material is June 1, 2005.**



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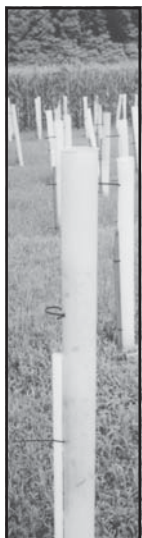
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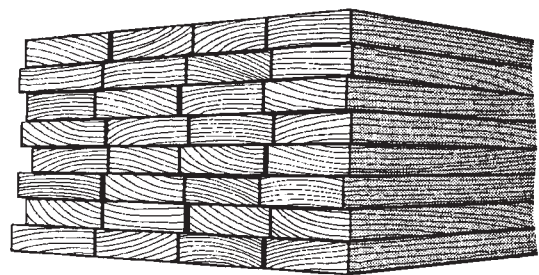
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