

The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

November/December 2005



**Hay-scented fern is considered a
“native invasive”**



Volume 43 Number 6

www.nyfoa.org

**THE NEW YORK
FOREST OWNERS
ASSOCIATION**

Volume 43, Number 6

Officers & Directors

Alan White, President

22 Bruce Scudder Rd.
Halcott Center, NY 12430; (845)254-6031

Geff Yancey, Vice President

32 Oliver Street
Rochester, NY 14607; (585) 271-4567

John Druke, Secretary

6341 Kirkville Road
Kirkville, NY 13082; (315) 656-2313

Jerry Michael, Treasurer

4 Leonard Lane
Binghamton, NY 13901; (607) 648-2941

Liana Gooding, Administrative Secretary

P.O. Box 541
Lima, N.Y 14485; (585) 624-3385

Peter Smallidge, Chair Editorial Committee

Cornell University, Fernow Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853; (607) 255-4696

2006

Harry Dieter, Honeoye Falls, (585) 533-2085

Jerry Michael, Binghamton, (607) 648-2941

Peter Smallidge, Ithaca, (607) 255-4696

Alan White, Jeffersonville, (845) 482-3719

2007

Renee Bouplon, Hudson, (518) 822-0613

Charles Bove, Bethpage, (914) 644-2330

Bob Malmshiemer, Cazenovia, (315) 470-6909

Geff Yancey, Rochester, (585) 271-4567

2008

Dan Cleveland, Erin, (607) 732-7884

Cindy King, Amsterdam, (518) 842-3556

Gene Reinshagen, Painted Post, (607) 796-6202

Kelly Smallidge, Van Etten, (607) 589-7530

Chapter-Designated Directors

Dick Patton, Allegheny Foothills; (716) 761-6333

Carl Wiedemann, Capital District; (518) 895-8767

John Druke, Central New York; (315) 656-2313

Anne Osborn, Lower Hudson; (845) 424-3683

Thomas Gilman, Northern Adirondack; (518)359-3089

Dave & Jean Preston, Niagara Frontier; (716) 688-4921

Bob Manning, Southeastern Adirondack; (518) 251-4638

Larry Lepak, Southern Tier; (607) 656-8504

Bob O'Brien, Southern Finger Lakes; (607) 594-4600

Ray Cavallaro, Western Finger Lakes; (585) 288-3411

Mary Jeanne Packer, Executive Director

5621 Grove Road
Trumansburg, NY 14886; 607-387-9804

The New York Forest Owners Association is a 501(c)3 foundation and tax deductible donations to this organization will advance NYFOA's educational mission.

All rights reserved. Contents may not be reproduced without prior written permission from the publisher. NYFOA does not necessarily support or approve procedures, products, or opinions presented by authors or advertisers.

© 2005 New York Forest Owners Association

In This Issue . . .

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MARY JEANNE PACKER 3

IN THE MAIL 4

HOW TO: PROTECT TREES FROM WINTER DAMAGE 5

ASK A PROFESSIONAL 6

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR NYFOA 9

WILD THINGS IN YOUR WOODLANDS
KRISTI SULLIVAN 10

WHY 480-A WORKS AND HOW NOT TO FIX IT
JOHN R. SULLIVAN 12

NYFOA AWARD NOMINEES 14

SOMEDAY...WHEN YOU CAN'T HEAR SO WELL
JIM OCHTERSKI 15

SIREX NOCTILIO – AN INTRODUCED WOOD-BORING WASP
DOUGLAS C. ALLEN 16

FOREST FOOD: MAST
JIM FINLEY 19

2005 NEW YORK FOREST OWNER INDEX OF ARTICLES 20

KNOW YOUR TREES – RED CEDAR 22

**The New York
Forest Owner**

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

The New York Forest Owner is a bi-monthly publication of The New York Forest Owners Association, P.O. Box 541, Lima, N.Y 14485. Materials submitted for publication should be sent to: Mary Beth Malmshiemer, Editor, The New York Forest Owner, 134 Lincklaen Street, Cazenovia, New York 13035. Materials may also be e-mailed to mmalmshe@syr.edu. Articles, artwork and photos are invited and if requested, are returned after use. The deadline for submission for the January/February issue is December 1, 2005.

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 \$35.

www.nyfoa.org

COVER: Photo shows fern fronds prior to full expansion. Mowing these ferns after expansion will likely deplete their starch reserves. Repeated mowing will reduce fern abundance. See article on page 6 for information on controlling ferns. Photograph courtesy of Peter Smallidge.

From The Executive Director

It's very exciting to be NYFOA's new Executive Director. I started work in the middle of October and attended my first Board meeting October 29. Now I'm looking forward to getting out to all of the chapters to hear about what you are doing to further forest stewardship in New York State and how I can help you achieve your goals.

NYFOA's Executive Committee and I have developed a list of priorities that I will be working on in my first 90 days on the job. I want to share these with you here so that you'll have an understanding of some of the tasks with which I'll be involved in the next few months.

Dan Palm has been a fantastic Executive Director for NYFOA. The organization is losing an extremely talented leader and a real do-er. Recognizing these are big shoes



to fill, Dan agreed to stay on board for the first two weeks after I began. At that time, we had a couple of meetings and nearly daily email and phone

calls to assure that the transition was a smooth one. Dan was involved on several steering committees including one for Forestry Awareness Day (which will be on March 13th this year). I will continue to represent NYFOA in planning for this event with our partners from Empire State Forest Products Association, NYSDEC, SUNY-ESF, Farm Bureau, and NY Department of Agriculture and Markets.

The Executive Committee expects that I will visit each chapter at least once in the coming year; and that I will visit at least four chapters in my first 90 days as Executive Director. In addition to getting to know more about NYFOA members and chapter-led initiatives, I will specifically be seeking members' input and feedback regarding the Membership Committee's proposal for recruiting and retaining NYFOA members. I already have meetings scheduled with the Western and Southern Finger Lakes Chapters and the Southern Adirondack Chapter in Decem-

ber and early January; and I hope to hear from other chapters with dates when we can meet early in the new year.

One of my strengths in helping the other associations that I've managed is fund development. I plan to begin efforts on behalf of NYFOA still in 2005 to identify funding sources and obtain grant money and donations to assist in implementing the organization's 2006 Action Plan. I will also be administering NYFOA's current grants from the US Forest Service for FLEP and the Highlands.

Peter Smallidge, State Extension Forester (and NYFOA Board Member), Alan White and I will be attending a meeting with Rob Davies, New York State Forester, and key members of Rob's staff in Albany December 8th. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss accomplishments that have resulted from the partnership between NYFOA and NYSDEC and to coordinate planning for future collaborative undertakings such as FLEP, the Highlands project, and other opportunities. It is my goal that we will be able to continue regular meetings with Rob and his staff throughout the year ahead.

I will be meeting with the NYFOA Editorial Committee (Peter Smallidge, Cindy King, and Editor Mary Beth Malmshemer) at my new office in Watkins Glen on December 2 to assess the *Forest Owner's* content, organization, and format. We will be preparing recommendations for Board consideration at their February meeting.

NYFOA's Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the New York Farm Show at the State Fairgrounds on February 25th. I will be working with NYFOA staff and board to plan the agenda for this meeting and to finalize the NYFOA 2006 Action Plan for approval at the February Board meeting. Mark your calendars now and make plans to attend the Annual Meeting and educational sessions February 23rd and 24th.

I look forward to working with NYFOA's members and partners to advance the association's mission in the years ahead.

-Mary Jeanne Packer
Executive Director

Join!

NYFOA is a not-for-profit group of NY State landowners promoting stewardship of private forests for the benefit of current and future generations. Through local chapters and statewide activities, NYFOA helps woodland owners to become responsible stewards and interested publics to appreciate the importance of New York's forests.

Join NYFOA today and begin to receive its many benefits including: six issues of *The New York Forest Owner*, woodwalks, chapter meetings, and two statewide meetings. Complete and mail this form:

I/We would like to support good forestry and stewardship of New York's forest lands

I/We own _____ acres of woodland.

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

County of Residence: _____

County of Woodlot: _____

Referred by: _____

Regular Annual Dues:

Student \$10

(Please provide copy of student ID)

Individual \$30

Family \$35

Sustaining Memberships

(Includes NYFOA annual dues)

Contributor \$50-\$99

Sponsor \$100-\$249

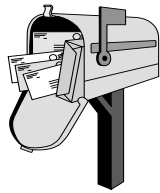
Benefactor \$250-\$499

Steward \$500 or more

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 **NYFOA**. Send the completed form to:

NYFOA
P.O. Box 541
Lima, New York 14485
1-800-836-3566
www.nyfoa.org

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

We Need Your Voice – Please Act Now

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is now accepting comments for the 2007 Farm Bill. In the past, the Farm Bill provided technical, educational and financial assistance to forest landowners. This includes the Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP). Our forests provide numerous benefits to our communities in terms of economic value, natural resource protection, recreational opportunities and quality of life. We need your help in voicing the importance of these forestry assistance programs to ensure they remain in the Farm Bill and are amply funded.

To ensure the 2007 Farm Bill addresses the needs of forest landowners and our communities, NYFOA urges you to submit written comments to USDA as well as your elected representatives. Comments must be received by December 30, 2005.

Comments can be submitted electronically via the Internet at the USDA home page (<http://www.usda.gov/farmbill>), by email to FarmBill@usda.gov, or send by mail to Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns, Farm Bill, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3355.

Susan J. Keister, L.L.C.

Forestry Consulting and Environmental Management Services

Per diem based fee structure for bid sales = no commissions
NYS-DEC Cooperating Consulting Forester SAF Certified, WBE

Services Include:

Management Plans

- Flep
- 480a

Commercial Timber Harvests/Valuations

- High Quality Hardwoods
- Low Grade Hardwoods
- Softwoods

Federal Wetlands Delineations

- Permit Applications

Timber Stand Improvement

- Marking
- Implementation

Damage Appraisals

- Strategy and advice
- Stump Cruises
- Valuations

Litigation Support

- Expert Witness Testimony

General permit and environmental management advice including wetlands, mining, local timber harvesting and special use permits.

7025 Harpers Ferry Road • Wayland, N.Y. 14572
585-728-3044/ph • 585-728-2786 / fax • susanjkeister@frontiernet.net

MORE CHANGE: NYFOA BY-LAWS

As part of the effort to merge NYWS and NYFOA the Boards agreed the surviving organization would use the existing NYFOA By-Laws until revised by-laws could be adopted. Over the past few months a draft has been prepared for review by the members of NYFOA. Under the existing by-laws, NYFOA members vote on revisions. Thus, consideration of the revised by-laws will be on the agenda for the Annual Membership meeting scheduled for February 25, 2006.

The current NYFOA by-laws which were approved by the membership in 1999 and the proposed draft dated July 20, 2005 are posted on the NYFOA website, www.nyfoa.org. They can be obtained electronically by contacting Liana Gooding at nyfoainc@hotmail.com. If you don't have access to the internet a paper copy can be obtained by calling NYFOA at 1-800-836-3566. Any comments regarding the draft can be forwarded to Liana.

SUMMARY OF BY-LAWS CHANGES

The following changes to the By-Laws approved by the membership in 1999 are proposed:

1. Inclusion of language to cover topics not here to fore included – Article IV, Section 7 Duty of Loyalty and conflict of interest;

continued on page 9

HOW TO: *Protect Trees from Winter Damage*

It's no secret that winter snow and ice can damage trees, but contending with these two cohorts of cold weather is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to preparing trees for winter. Aside from snow and ice, winter sun, wind and, of course, temperatures can harm trees in a variety of ways.

To keep winter weather from damaging your trees, Bert T. Swanson, a professor in the University of Minnesota's Department of Horticultural Science, and Richard Rideout, the forester for the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, recommend taking the following steps to prevent seasonal damage to bark, branches, and roots.

Sun Scald

Sun scald occurs when sunlight heats trees to the point of stimulating cambial activity and then the sunlight is blocked, so the bark temperature drops rapidly, killing the active tissue. Sun scald often is characterized by areas of elongated, sunken, dried, or cracked, dead bark; is usually found on the south or southwest side of a tree; and typically occurs on winter days when there is significant temperature fluctuation.

Swanson and Rideout warn that young trees, newly planted trees, thin-barked trees, trees that have been pruned to raise the lower branches, and trees transplanted from a shady location to a sunny location are most susceptible. Older trees, the researchers say, are less vulnerable because their thicker bark can insulate dormant tissue from the sun's heat, ensuring that the tissue will remain dormant and cold hardy.

To prevent sun scald, Swanson and Rideout advise wrapping tree trunks with a commercial tree wrap, plastic tree guards, or any other light-colored material that will reflect sunlight and keep the bark at a constant temperature. Newly planted trees should be wrapped for at least two winters, and thin-barked species should be wrapped for five winters or more.

Discoloration of Evergreen Foliage

Evergreen foliage that appears brown or bleached may occur during winter

months as a result of excessive transpiration caused by winter sun and wind while the roots are in frozen soil and unable to replace lost water. Discoloration also may be caused by sun scald, the destruction of chlorophyll when temperatures are below 28°F, and the occurrence of cold temperatures early in the fall before plants have had a chance to harden.

Foliar damage normally occurs on the south, southwest, and windward sides of the evergreens, but in severe cases the whole plant may be affected. New transplants or plants with succulent, late-season growth are particularly sensitive.

To minimize winter injury to evergreens, Swanson and Rideout recommend the following:

- Prop pine boughs or Christmas tree greens against or over evergreens to protect them from wind and sun and to catch more snow for natural protection.
- Construct a barrier of burlap or similar material on the south, southwest, and windward sides of evergreens. If a plant has exhibited injury on all sides, surround it with a barrier, but leave the top open to allow for some air and light penetration.
- Water throughout the growing season and into the fall. Decrease watering slightly in September to encourage hardening off, then water thoroughly in October until freeze-up. Watering only in late fall will not help reduce injury.

Root Injury

Because roots do not become dormant in the winter as quickly as stems, branches, and buds, and roots are less hardy than stems, it is important to prevent cold air from getting through cracks in the soil, where it can reduce fall root growth or kill newly formed roots. Often the best strategy to protect roots from cold temperatures is to encourage root growth in the fall by mulching new trees and shrubs with 6-8 inches of wood chips or straw. If the fall has been dry, water heavily before the ground freezes to reduce frost penetration.



Although heavy snow and ice storms cause damage by bending and breaking branches, winter sun, wind, and cold temperatures can also harm trees. Courtesy of MN Department of Natural Resource

Snow and Ice Damage

Heavy snow and ice storms cause damage by bending and breaking branches. Swanson and Rideout recommend wrapping relatively small trees together or tying the leaders with strips of carpet, strong cloth, or nylon stockings at approximately two-thirds of the way above the weak crotches. These wrappings must be removed in spring to prevent girdling and to allow free movement of the stem. Proper pruning, to eliminate multiple leaders and weak branch attachments, will reduce snow and ice damage. For trees with large, wide-spreading leaders or large, multistemmed trees, the main branches should be cabled together by a professional.

Although winter damage is a common concern, Swanson and Rideout say that selecting the proper site at the time of planting and performing the necessary preventative maintenance at the appropriate time will significantly reduce or prevent serious injury to trees. ▲

Adapted from the University of Idaho Extension Service Publication, *Protecting Trees and Shrubs Against Winter Damage*, by Bert T. Swanson and Richard Rideout. For more information, contact Bert T. Swanson, professor emeritus, Department of Horticulture, University of Minnesota-Crookston, 35423 County Highway 46, Park Rapids, MN 56470; (218) 732-3579.

This article appeared in the November 2003 issue of "The Forestry Source" a publication of SAF. It is reprinted with their permission.



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 with an explicit mention of "Ask a Professional." Additional reading on various topics is available at www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/forestrypage

QUESTION:

What ecological effect does hay-scented fern have on the forest? Are there any non-chemical strategies that will control the fern?

ANSWER:

Hay-scented fern (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*) is a native species that is common especially in forests dominated by maple or cherry, although it can occur in other forests. It is usually less abundant in forests that are quite shady, such as hemlock-dominated forest or those with heavy beech cover. Perhaps its most negative effect is the ability to prevent the development of hardwood seedlings. Hay-scented fern is considered a "native invasive" because of its ability to dominate a forest under some conditions. Fern domination will significantly affect the long-term health and sustainability of the forest because the future forest will have fewer and likely different trees.

Dense fern cover has negative effects on the ability of seedlings to establish and develop. There are three

likely ways that ferns, in general, inhibit hardwoods. First, the ferns create a dense shade that will limit some hardwood species. Second, the fronds create a heavy organic layer that together with the dense root system of the ferns limits some tree seedlings. Finally, the expansive fronds create a habitat where rodents

can effectively forage for seeds with reduced likelihood of predation.

Fern domination of the understory is linked jointly to canopy thinning and prolonged browsing of other species by deer. Even low intensity thinning will create enough light to stimulate fern expansion. However, as your forest matures and upper-canopy trees die,



Hay-scented fern along skid trail will quickly spread to other areas following the harvest.

sunlight will likely increase even if you don't cut or thin your woods. Forests without any cutting may also experience an increase in fern abundance. Deer browsing reduces other low-growing shrubs, like raspberry or hobblebush that would shade the fern. Deer, like other livestock, likely avoid browsing of ferns because of an enzyme in the foliage that inhibits the animal's ability to absorb nutrition. Hay-scented fern increased in abundance with canopy openings more quickly than the fern decreased in response to canopy shading. Increased light levels increase photosynthesis, growth and branching of root rhizomes, and production of spores. Rhizomes spread the clones vegetatively while spores allow for the development of new clones.

Now to the second question – what strategies will control the abundance of hay-scented fern? Both chemical and non-chemical strategies have advantages and disadvantages and varying levels of success. The most effective way to control ferns is chemical applications. Typically the chemical glyphosate is quite effective when used in accordance with label instructions. If you decide to try chemical controls, check with your local office of Cornell Cooperative Extension for additional information on the safe use of pesticides. There are also some non-chemical approaches. In all cases, do not disturb the organic layer of the forest floor as this will increase sprouting and abundance of ferns. Remember also that fern abundance increased because of the combined effects of deer and increased sunlight. Thus, you will need a plan to control the impacts of deer on other vegetation. Simply controlling deer is insufficient to reduce the fern and re-establish hardwoods. A recent study evaluated mowing as a control for hay-scented fern. This study, in Massachusetts, found that mowing in June after full expansion of the fern fronds and again in August for two



Ferns can create an attractive open understory, but domination of the ground layer changes the ecological functioning of the forest

consecutive years significantly reduced the density and height of the ferns and allowed increased light. Mowing can be with any tool (e.g., mower, weed whip, brush hog, etc.) that you can safely get into the woods and not damage the residual overstory trees. In the study, the mowing treatment helped establish raspberry and desired hardwoods. The raspberries shade the ferns but don't typically inhibit hardwood establishment. The mowing treatment presumably depletes the starch reserves of the ferns when they are lowest after frond expansion in the spring and through repetition stresses the plants into a decline. Mowing will likely not eliminate ferns from your woods, but may control them to the point that other more desired species can establish.

There are two other techniques that haven't been thoroughly evaluated and which might have some controlling effect on hay-scented fern. First, liming might have a connection to improving seedling establishment. In one study, when soil calcium was low relative to soil aluminum, the ferns did best. This doesn't mean that liming, which would increase calcium relative to aluminum, will help, but it might be

continued on page 8



**Bruce E.
Robinson, Inc.**

Forestry Consultants

- Forest product marking & marketing
- Timber appraisals
- Access road design & supervision
- Boundary maintenance
- Forest management planning
- Forest recreation planning
- Wildlife management
- Forest taxation planning
- Tree farm management
- Tree planting & tree shelters
- Urban forestry & community management


**1894 Camp Street Ext.
Jamestown, NY 14701-9239
E-mail: brobin@netsync.net**

**Phone: 716-665-5477
Fax: 716-664-5866**



Hay-scented fern that is disturbed can spread along skid trails because the rhizomes are able to easily re-establish new plants

worth trying on a small scale to see the effects. Second and even more speculatively, heavy mulching as done in gardens to control weeds might also be an effective control of ferns in the woods. You could try this in a limited capacity to see if it works.

Considerable work on the effects and control of hay-scented fern has been done by Drs. de la Cretaz and Kelty at the University of Massachusetts. Their research has been published in the Northern Journal of Applied Forestry, Restoration Ecology, and Biological Invasions. 

FORECON INC.

*FO*restry - *Re*creation - *E*cology - *CO*Nservation



Forestry
Consulting
Services

Timber Sales 2 Timber Management
Timber & Timberland Appraisals
Natural Resource Management

1890 E. Main St. Falconer, NY 14733 716-664-5602
11 N. Main St., Suite 202, Cortland, NY 13045 (607) 753-3113

Visit Our Website: www.foreconinc.com



Forest Management Planning ▪ Timber Sale Administration
Forest Inventory & Appraisal ▪ Timber & Forestland Tax Support ▪ Assurance
Forest Restoration & Rehabilitation ▪ Arboricultural Consulting
Litigation Support

Our Certified Foresters and Arborists have been assisting clients with their trees and forests in New York, Pennsylvania, and New England for 20 years with offices in:

Syracuse Area
315.676.7810
ab@forestryexperts.com

Utica/Rome Area
315.338.0899
cv@forestryexperts.com

Our approach is broad. Our results are credible. Our commitment is genuine.

New Executive Director for NYFOA

NYFOA's Executive Committee has announced the selection of the new Executive Director - Welcome Mary Jeanne Packer! Effective October 15, 2005, Mary Jeanne took over for Dan Palm who has served as NYFOA's first Executive Director these past three years.

Mary Jeanne recently relocated with her husband, Clayton Grove, and family to Schuyler County, New York. She was raised in Chemung and Wyoming Counties of New York State, but spent the past 25 years of her professional career working in New England. Mary Jeanne is the president of Ghostwriters Communications, Inc., a consulting firm that specializes in supporting natural resources and experiential tourism industries and organizations throughout the northeast. The firm's clients include Vermont Wood Manufacturers Association, Vermont Woodlands Association, National Slate Training Center, Lake Champlain and Hudson River Birding Trails, and Moosalamoo Association. Prior to founding Ghostwriters, Packer served 16 years as the director of planning and public affairs for the Green

Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests. Mary Jeanne holds a masters degree in communications management from Syracuse University and a bachelors degree in civil engineering from MIT. Mary Jeanne and her husband have been NYFOA members for a number of years. "We are eager to become active in our local chapter- just as soon as we get all of our boxes unpacked," Packer said.

Mary Jeanne brings strong leadership, organizational and communications skills to NYFOA. Through her leadership, NYFOA will continue to build on recent successes of the integration of professional staff and the administration of new funding sources. NYFOA will continue with established partnerships to send a cohesive message to State legislators representing the private forest owners of New York State.

One of Mary Jeanne's short term goals is to meet with all of the chapters and understand their needs for support from the Association. "I'm looking forward to visiting with folks and then beginning to help them however I can to accomplish their chapter's objectives," Packer said. ▲

NYFOA By-Laws (continued)

Article VIII, Section 7 Professional services; Article IX Indemnification; Article X Dissolution; and Article XI Construction.

2. Ex-Officio Board Members – Article IV, Section 3.4 – Allows Board to appoint Ex-Officio members to the Board with a specific term of office.
3. Chapter Operations – Article VII, Section 3 reflects that Chapter management will be undertaken so it is consistent with the agreements required by the Internal Revenue Service outlining a defined relationship between the Central Organization (NYFOA) and the affiliates (chapters).
4. Fiscal Management – Article VIII, Section 3 – Requires the Board of Directors to ensure an audit is conducted annually.
5. Amendments to By-Laws – Article XII, Section 1 – Gives authority to the Board of Directors to amend the By-Laws. Presently the membership has that authority.

REQUEST FOR MEMBERSHIP ACTION

It is requested that members access a copy of the current and proposed by-laws and review the changes. Comments received prior to the meeting will be summarized for consideration at the Annual membership meeting in February. ▲

fountain forestry

Tupper Lake, NY (518) 359 3089
tupperlake@fountainforestry.com

Lake George, NY (518) 668 3237
lakegeorge@fountainforestry.com

Services for Private, Public, and Corporate Landowners Worldwide

www.fountainforestry.com

**What topics would
YOU**

**like to see covered in the
Forest Owner?**

**Contact the Editor at
mmalmshe@syr.edu**

Wild Things in Your Woodlands

By Kristi Sullivan

BLACK BEAR (*URSUS AMERICANUS*)



Almost all New York black bears are black, although on rare occasion bears may be cinnamon or blonde in color. The muzzle is tinged with tan, and often bears will have a white blaze on their chest, sometimes in a prominent "V." The fur is thick, long, and fairly soft, and males and females are colored alike. The largest bear reported from New York weighed about 750 pounds. Males, called boars, are larger and heavier than females (sows). An average adult male weighs about 300 pounds and an average adult female weighs about 170 pounds. When standing on all four feet, black bears are less than 39 inches (1 meter) in height at the shoulder, and are seldom more than 78 inches (2 meters) long from tip of nose to the tip of the tail. Black bears are surprisingly agile; they can run up to 35 mph, climb trees and swim well. In the wild, black bears may live for 21-33 years, though the average age of bears harvested in New York is 5 years.

Black bears occur throughout New York State, though they are most abundant in the Adirondacks, the Catskills, and the southern tier along the border with Pennsylvania. They commonly inhabit large, extensive areas of forests, however, they are adaptable and use open and developed areas where shelter or thick cover, and abundant food, can be found nearby. New York State has a relatively high percent of forest cover, diverse food sources and an abundance of water. As agricultural lands have been abandoned and reforestation has occurred, New York's bear habitat has improved and significantly increased in area during the last 100 years.

As fall borders on winter, New York's 8,000 black bears are finishing their fall feast, after eating heartily for months in preparation

for dormancy. Though typically most active at dusk and dawn, during the fall they may feed for up to 20 hours a day, ingesting up to 20,000 calories! Bears are omnivorous, eating almost anything, from berries, corn, acorns, beechnuts and even grass, to table scraps, dead animals, honey and insects. In a recent study of fawn survival in Pennsylvania, bears surprisingly were a major predator of fawns, second only to coyotes.

As cold weather arrives, black bears end the feast and seek out den sites. Though black bears are not true hibernators, they usually undergo a dormant period during the winter. Typically, female bears enter a den during October or November, and males enter their dens in November or December. The winter den may be a hollow tree


or log, a crevice in a rock ledge, a cavity under a large rock or beneath the roots of a tree, or a "nest" on top of the ground or under fallen trees or brush. Bears will also den in drainage culverts or a depression dug in the ground. Some bears line their dens with bark, grasses or leaves. Females often select more sheltered sites than males. Males den alone, as do pregnant females (they give birth in the den), and females with cubs born the previous winter den with their young. A dormant bear's heart rate and breathing slow, and its body temperature drops slightly. During this time they do not eat, drink, or pass body wastes, and may lose a quarter of their body weight. A dormant bear relies on stored fat to make it through the winter, however, they may emerge if they're disturbed.

Males leave their dens in March or April. Females and their cubs leave their dens later, sometimes as late as May.

In New York State, female black bears generally become sexually mature between two and five years of age, and males become sexually mature at four to six years of age. Bears are polygamous and breeding occurs from late May until perhaps as late as September. Cubs are born at the end of January or early February. Litter size varies from one to five, but two or three are most common in New York. Cubs den with their mothers during their second winter and disperse as yearlings during the second spring or summer. In New York, adult female bears regularly breed every other year.

The black bear is a wide-ranging animal (adult females have a home range of 1 -15 square miles and adult males have a home range of 8-60 square miles), and few properties are large enough alone to provide all the black bears needs. However, private landowners can take steps to manage their woodlands to provide food and cover for this magnificent animal. Encouraging a diversity of mast-producing trees like oaks and beech, and berry-producing shrubs, like blueberries and blackberries, can provide food for bears living in the area or just passing through. In addition to natural foods, a planted white and red clover food plot mixture has attracted bears during the cooler seasons. Providing cover in addition to food can also benefit bears. Retaining trees with large cavities, specifically those at the base of trees, can provide good denning habitat. Leaving tree tops following a timber harvest, or fallen trees in unharvested forests, can also supply denning cover.

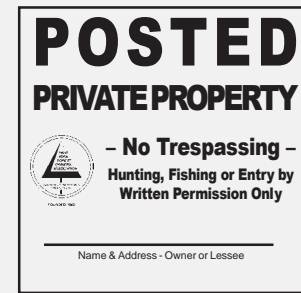
Besides enhancing habitat in areas that bears might use, the best way to provide a safe environment for these animals is to avoid purposely feeding bears and remove access to garbage, bird feeders, pet food, livestock feed, and other attractants. Once bears find an easy meal they will return as long as food is available. The best way to stop a bear from coming into inhabited areas is to remove the food source for a month or more, but even then, there are no guarantees. A persistent bear may damage property, increase the risk of human injury, or become an unwanted visitor in other parts of the neighborhood. Bears who associate people with food are more likely to be killed by vehicles, and may be killed to alleviate safety or nuisance concerns. Unfortunately, the old saying does have much truth to it – a fed bear is a dead bear. By not feeding bears artificially, landowners can do a lot to guarantee their survival.

Additional information on about the black bear and wildlife damage issues can be found at <http://wildlifecontrol.info/newdmc/pdfs/blackbear.pdf> 

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/

POSTED SIGN ORDER FORM

NYFOA



Use this form to order the sign shown above. The signs are orange with black printing.

SIGN MATERIAL	COST PER SIGN	NUMBER ORDERED*	COST
Plastic (.024 gauge)	\$.45	_____	\$ _____
Aluminum (.012 gauge)	\$.70	_____	\$ _____
<i>Add Name and Address to Sign</i>			
\$5.00 Set up cost per address			\$5.00
	\$.05	_____	_____
Handling Cost \$5.00 per order			\$5.00
Shipping Cost**			\$ _____
TOTAL COST OF ORDER			\$ _____

Please specify Name and Address to be printed on signs:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Limited to two lines of type (abbreviate where possible). Type is about 5/16 inches high.

Mailing Address

(UPS Shipping Address if different from mailing address)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Make checks payable to NYFOA. Mail form to NYFOA at PO Box 541, Lima, NY 14485. For more information call 1-800-836-3566

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

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

Why 480-A Works *And How Not to Fix It*

John R. Sullivan

In the July-August issue of the *Forest Owner* Alan White took the lid off the coffin of the vampire that is stalking us all—the rising burden of property taxes—and he is probably right when he says that there needs to be major reform somewhere in the tax treatment of forest land.

It's hard to argue with that. I have seen my assessment and taxes increase 10-fold in the past 25 years. In fact, my annual tax bill is about double the value of the land when I took ownership. Rising taxes make forest management harder to justify financially and landowners have been forced to convert their woodlots into building lots.

However, there is one way that a forest owner can reduce the financial pressure and reduce his or her taxes. Put the land under Section 480-A of New York's Real Property Tax Law. If you are serious about practicing good forest management, plan to stick with it for the long haul, and want to ease your tax burden substantially, look into the program. It's not perfect, but in return for a serious long-term (10 years) commitment to forest management, you receive an 80 per cent reduction in your land assessment.

Is it worth it? That's for you to decide, and the answer hinges around the word "serious." One key provision of 480-A is that 10-year commitment; every year you sign a form adding one year to your participation in the program, so that you are always committed for 10 years. If you decide to withdraw in January, 2006, your assessment immediately reverts to its full value and your taxes go up. But

you must stick to your forest management plan—no subdivision, no golf course—through 2015.

The other major requirement of 480-A is a management plan, drafted by a qualified forester and signed by the landowner. I have seen plans that run in the hundreds of pages. The plan for my own 350-acre woodlot consists of one hand-drawn map and 7 typewritten, easy-to-understand pages. Of course, those seven pages are the result of many hours of field work, and foresters don't work free.

There are other eligibility requirements. A woodlot must contain at least 50 contiguous acres; the landowner pays a 6 percent stumpage tax at harvest time; and the management plan must be reviewed and updated every five years.

Like all laws, this one no doubt could be improved, but it works pretty well, and has for me for more than 25 years. I own 350 acres in Warren County that was a farm in the 19th and early 20th Centuries. We grow a mix of white pine, red oak, sugar maple, white ash, hemlock, white cedar and smaller amounts of other woods. We're part of the Tree Farm System and recently received our sustainable forestry certification from Smartwood and the Forest Stewardship Council. I feel that 480-A has allowed me to hang on to the land and even thrive. I'm not so sure I could have done so without it.

So – if 480-A is so great, why doesn't everyone sign up? Obviously, not everyone is eligible; the law was written to exclude small properties, real estate speculators and others without a serious commitment to forest management. I

think others stay away because over time, several myths have developed that scare them away.

One myth is that local assessors will hate you and find ways to retaliate. When the law was introduced, many local assessors opposed it, I am told, because it seemed to usurp their authority as arbiters of property value. (A 480-A application is reviewed and approved by the DEC's Regional Forester and the local assessor has no say in the matter.) Also, some local officials were afraid that widespread participation would destroy their tax base. But assessors have found other things to worry about, and elected officials have discovered that their tax base is not under threat. I haven't heard of retaliation against 480-A landowners in years.

A second myth says that 480-A "forces you to do harvests," implying that some official will show up at the door and say, "cut now." Hardly. The management plan is written by a forester hired by the landowner, and the harvest schedule takes into account many things, not least of which are forest health and the landowner's goals. In short, the landowner calls the shots.

What if the management plan calls for a harvest, but circumstances now make you think it's not the right time? It's happened to me, and there's never been a problem. We've accelerated the harvest schedule; we've entirely removed a stand of white cedar from the plan; we've delayed harvests because of poor market conditions. The changes were approved without difficulty.

A third myth is that 480-A depresses the land's value on the market; if

you need to sell your land, the program's restrictions (which transfer with the title) limit the number of possible buyers and what they're willing to pay. This may still be true in some places, but for the past several years in my corner of the world 480-A participation has actually conferred a premium in the market, as a sign that the seller has cared for the land.

There are also objections to 480-A based on its larger purposes—its social value, if you will. Some would like to change the law and perhaps expand it to protect private recreational land or wildlife areas, reduce the minimum lot size of 50 acres, or even eliminate the need for a management plan.

Each change can be argued by reasonable people, but I think we need to be careful of what we wish for. In lawmaking, more than many other activities, the unintended consequences turn out to be the most troublesome.

For example, take the notion of expanding the program to include private recreational and wildlife management lands. The argument goes that in 21st Century New York State they serve as important a public purpose as forest products, and their contribution should be recognized and encouraged the same way forest management is.

Not so fast. For forest owners, 480-A only defers part of your taxes, not eliminate them. We repay some of our property tax savings by paying a harvest tax. But how do owners of recreational and wildlife lands repay the public for their tax break? One way might be to require that tax-favored recreational lands be opened to the public.

Hmmm...I can hear the gears turn in legislative minds; maybe there's a way to get public parkland cheap. Let private landowners buy the land and give them a little tax break in return for an open-door policy. I doubt that very many landowners would agree to that—I wouldn't. Worse yet, what if

Albany tried to "improve" the law so that any tax-favored lands – including those in forest production — must be open to the public? Can't happen here? Want to test that idea? I don't.

What about that 50-acre minimum? Isn't it too large, and doesn't it discourage participation in the program? My answers are, no it isn't, and yes, it does. But so what? If the minimum were cut to 10 acres, participation might increase (although there is no data to confirm that) but is it forest management or really backyard cultivation? When does a woodlot become someone's suburban yard?

I have even heard some folks argue that we should do away with the need for a management plan, because its cost also keeps people out of the program. Why not just have landowners make a commitment, without an elaborate plan? I find this hard to take seriously, frankly. How do you do forest management without a plan?

The 10-year commitment and penalties for withdrawal may be a fruitful area of reform. The 10-year signup no doubt does discourage participation, judging by conversations with many landowners over the years. And the penalties for withdrawing from the program prematurely can

continued on page 14

SAF Certified

MICHAEL C. GREASON
FORESTRY SERVICES

(518) 943-9230 5476 Cauterskill Road
forest@mhcable.com Catskill, NY 12414

Forest Owner's
LIABILITY INSURANCE

—

Home and Land
Equipment
Buildings

—

Bill Kemp, Agent
Phone (607) 656-4752
Fax (607) 656-9776
e-mail wkemp@frontiernet.net

HALE FORESTRY COMPANY
610 East Main Street, Westfield, PA 16950

Professional Forestry Consulting
Forest Resource Management Services

TIMBER SALES APPRAISALS
MANAGEMENT PLAN INVENTORIES

Michael L. Hale
Toll Free (877)-HALEFOR or (814) 367-5915
e-mail halefor@penn.com
Fax (814) 367-5919

Society of American Foresters • Pennsylvania Forestry Association
Member NY Forest Owners Association

be very costly, and there is almost no relief for owners who might have to sell because of some family emergency. On the other hand, the requirements are there to make sure it benefited owners who would make a genuine, long-term commitment to forest management, not to provide a tax shelter for land speculators. The arguments on both sides are far more subtle and complicated than that, and clearly any reform needs to consider many factors.

Sometimes it is said that the towns, school districts and counties lose too much money to 480-A, and the state has begun reimbursing towns for some of these losses. However, I have my doubts about the size of the loss. Certainly towns like Newcomb, in the heart of the Adirondacks, with hundreds of thousands of acres of industrial forest land receiving a tax abatement, had a genuine problem.

But Newcomb is nearly alone at the extreme; probably more typical is the Town of Chester, where three properties are in the 480-A program.

In fact, there is lots of evidence that local governments may be better off giving forest land a tax break than allowing rising assessments to force owners to develop their property. A number of studies have shown that forest and farm land is a money-maker for taxing authorities. On average, for every tax dollar collected from forest and agricultural land owners, only about 30 cents are paid out in services. Residential property, on the other hand, costs about \$1.25 for each tax dollar collected. At that rate, regardless of what pro-development advocates say, we'd all be better off in the woods.

But that's something you and I already know. 

John Sullivan is a member of NYFOA's SE Adirondack Chapter and the owner of a 350-acre Tree Farm in Chestertown. He recently received certification from the Forest Stewardship Council and Smartwood through the Sustainable Forestry Initiative of the Residents' Committee to Protect the Adirondacks.

NYFOA Award Nominees

At the annual membership meeting each year, NYFOA presents several awards:

The **Heiberg Memorial Award** recognizes outstanding contributions to forestry and conservation in New York. In honor of Professor Svend Heiberg, a renowned Professor of Silviculture who proposed establishment of a landowner group, which was to become NYFOA.

The **NYFOA Outstanding Service Award** recognizes outstanding service to the NYFOA membership and furtherance of NYFOA's mission. (All previous awardees are listed in the March-April 2005 Forest Owner.)

NYFOA's Chapter Activity Award thanks a volunteer individual or couple from each chapter for helping the

continued on page 19

SCREENPRINTINGSPECIALISTS
Voss SIGNS, LLC
CUSTOM & STOCK SIGNS FOR LONG TERM OUTDOOR USE

CALL FOR OUR FREE 2005 CATALOG WITH MANY NEW ITEMS FOR THE FORESTRY PROFESSIONAL

NO DUMPING ALLOWED

PRIVATE PROPERTY
TREE FARM
PROPERTY WILL REMAIN UNPOSTED IF TREATED WITH RESPECT
CARRY OUT TRASH. NO DUMPING.
PHONE HOME TO 413-549-1403.

POSTED
PRIVATE PROPERTY
HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING OR TRESPASSING FOR ANY PURPOSE IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN
VIOLATORS WILL BE PROSECUTED
WOODWORTH FARMS

CUSTOM AND STOCK SIGNS FOR FORESTRY PROFESSIONALS

PRINTED ON ALUMINUM AND PLASTIC FOR LONG TERM OUTDOOR USE

NO 4 X 4s ON TRAIL

NO ATVs

P.O. BOX 553
MANLIUS N.Y. 13104
PH. 1-800-473-0698
(315) 682-6418
FAX: 682-7335
WWW.VOSSSIGNS.COM
Custom Screen Printing since 1965



LAW FIRM EXPERIENCED IN ISSUES RELATING TO TIMBER, FORESTRY, AND NATURAL RESOURCE LAW:

**Timber Trespass Actions • Eminent Domain involving Timberland
Timberland Succession Planning • Boundary Line Disputes
Oil, Gas and Wind Energy Lease Reviews
Timber Tax Advice Including:
Schedule T Preparation
Depletion Allowance Calculations
Tax Free Exchanges
Timberland Tax Certiorari Challenges**

**Call David J. Colligan at
WATSON, BENNETT, COLLIGAN, JOHNSON & SCHECHTER, L.L.P.**
12 Fountain Plaza, Suite 600
Buffalo, New York 14202
Telephone: (716)852-3540
Fax: (716)852-3546

or

E-Mail: dcolligan@watsonbennett.com
Visit our Web Site: www.timberlaw.com

Someday...When You Can't Hear So Well

JIM OCHTERSKI

A few years ago, one of my co-workers claimed that he was not so worn out after working with farm and forestry machinery because he wore hearing protection. Having seldom used hearing protection for anything but shooting practice, I was doubtful, but I tried it.

Wow! He was right!

Since the day I made hearing protection a work routine, I've become hooked on my little foam earplugs. Earplugs are small, easy to use, and cheap. It takes about 10 seconds to fit them into my ears comfortably. Before working with or near a chainsaw, tractor, lawn mower, circular saw, belt sander, brush cutter, or shop vacuum, I put the plugs in and can concentrate on my work. When I am done, my ears do not ring or buzz like they used to, and I really feel a lot less fatigued.

Most people are already aware that hearing loss is permanent. Loud noises damage the nerves and fine hairs in your inner ear. For many people, hearing loss is caused by too much noise exposure over years of work and play. Hearing protection comes with a Noise Reduction Rating (the amount of decibels reduced). It is a good idea to get hearing protection with an NRR of 24 or greater, if your hearing is still intact. These protectors do not eliminate sound; they simply reduce the intensity of the sound. You can buy hearing protection in any pharmacy or health store, farm shop, or hardware store. My soft foam plugs

(NRR = 31) have lasted almost three years.

Farm machinery and equipment operators sometimes neglect hearing protection so they can listen to their equipment while working. Even with earplugs or earmuffs in place, you can still hear your equipment very

well. The only difference is that the operating noise is not banging away at your auditory nerves. In fact, the reduced clamor allows for better attention to unusual noises or vibrations. I have found

that I can pay more attention to potential hazards, lowering the risk of injury to others and myself. It is easier to spot hand signals from my wife

Chainsaws are a good example of how hearing protection is important. If your neighbor (or someone in a distant forest) is operating a chainsaw, you can probably hear it. Most chainsaws operate at 100–115 decibels. At that high noise level, damage to ear nerves occurs after only 15 minutes of use. Since you cannot operate a chainsaw anywhere but in your hands, you have to protect yourself against the noise. (Remember from high school physics that decibels are logarithmic, meaning a 100 dB sound is 10 times louder than an 90 dB sound). Lawn mowers and tractors usually operate at 100 decibels, where permanent hearing damage occurs after less than 1 hour of use.

There are dozens of sources of loud noise around our homes and farms, including air compressors, cultivators, generators, and leaf blowers.

This season, try reducing your fatigue and keep safe by protecting your ability to hear. You do not want to ever miss a whispered word, whether from a friend, a spouse, or a young child, just because you thought your ears were tough enough. But don't take my word for it . . . try it yourself. Let me know if it makes a difference to you. ▲

Jim Ochterski is a NYFOA member in the Southern Finger Lakes Chapter and will gladly give you a new pair of earplugs for free if you agree to use them. Send your request to 1740 Rt 223, Erin, NY 14838.



Lake George Forestry

Complete Forestry Services including:

- Detailed Management Plans
- Timber Trespass
- Timber Sales
- Appraisals
- Deed Research
- Timber Inventory
- Watershed Management
- Boundary Line Location
- Tax Savings Plans

No property is too small or too large to benefit from experienced professional assistance when you are faced with important decisions regarding its use.

Contact Lake George Forestry today to arrange a free initial consultation.

Christian Gearwear, President
LAKE GEORGE FORESTRY, INC.

50 Hendrick Street
Lake George, New York 12845
Phone/Fax: 518-668-2623

Sirex noctilio – An introduced wood-boring wasp

DOUGLAS C. ALLEN

Newly introduced plants and insects that threaten our forests have garnered much media attention during the past several years. One of my objectives for writing this column has been to keep forest owners apprised of invasive insects and their current status as pests or their potential as agents that may jeopardize the health of New York State's forests. Recently, the European woodwasp, *Sirex noctilio* (sigh-rex knock-till-ee-oh), was discovered infesting Scotch pine near the Port of Oswego and in the vicinity of Oswego and Fulton, NY.

Woodwasps (also called "horntails") are comparatively large insects in the Order Hymenoptera (high-men-op-terra). This Order is divided into two groups; a relatively primitive collection of species that contains the

woodwasps (e.g., Figs. 1 & 2) and sawflies, and a more evolutionarily advanced assemblage that includes the more familiar parasitic wasps, bees, hornets, and yellowjackets. Woodwasps and sawflies are easily distinguished from the latter, because their abdomen, essentially the back half of the insect's body, is broadly joined to the thorax (front half). The thorax is the segment of an adult insect's body to which the wings and legs are attached. The abdomen of more advanced wasps, on the other hand, is connected by a distinct narrow stem-like structure called a petiole. This group is referred to as being "narrow waisted."

Distribution of *Sirex noctilio*

This woodwasp is native to Europe, Asia and North Africa. It first gained

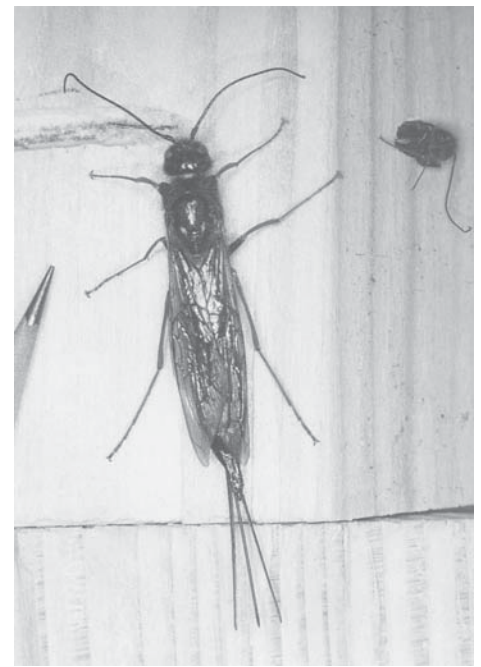


Figure 2. The wings of a woodwasp are usually held flat on top of the body, as illustrated here, when the insect is at rest.

international notoriety in the early 1920s, however, when an outbreak occurred in Monterey pine plantations on the North Island of New Zealand. By the late 1950s and throughout the 1960s it was a major pest of this introduced pine on both the main island of New Zealand and in southern Australia. Currently it is a serious pest of slash, jack, loblolly, and Monterey pines (all native to North America) that have been planted in several countries in the southern hemisphere. Many of our native western pines are also known to be susceptible. The "hard pines" (i.e., species with 2 to 3 needles per fascicle or bundle) are its most common hosts.

New York State's concern

Right now it appears as if the primary host for this species of *Sirex* in New York State will be Scotch pine, which is of little commercial value. A big question at this time, though, is whether it will successfully establish in red pine. We have many plantations and natural stands of this native, and relatively valuable,



Figure 1. An adult woodwasp. Note the hook or plate at the tip of the abdomen (A) and the ovipositor immediately beneath (B).

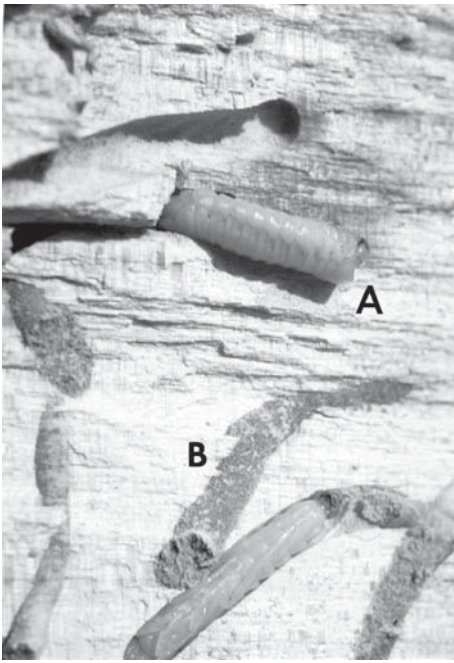


Figure 3. This tree section is infested with woodwasp larvae (A) and riddled with frass-filled larval galleries (B).

species throughout the state. Most likely, this wood borer was introduced in solid wood packing material that entered the Port of Oswego. Currently, several state and federal agencies, including the NYS Department of Environmental Conserva-

tion's Division of Lands and Forests and the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets' Division of Plant Industry, are conducting surveys in and around the Oswego County area to determine the extent of this recent invasion.

What to look for – the insect

The adult is 1.0 to 1.5 inches long with a spear-shaped, upward projecting hook or plate on the tip of the last body segment (Fig. 1,A). Females have a very long, pronounced egg laying device, called an ovipositor, that originates immediately below this plate and usually extends well beyond the end of the insect's body (Fig. 1,B). The female is bluish-black with reddish brown legs. The mid-section of the male's abdomen has a pronounced orange band that encompasses four or five body segments. The male has black legs.

Neither of the woodwasps depicted in Figs. 1 & 2 are *S. noctilio*, but both resemble the latter in general appearance.

The legless larvae are creamy white with well developed heads and a dark spine at the tip of the abdomen. When

fully grown, the larva is approximately one inch long (Fig. 3A).

What to look for – the damage

One of the major differences in the biology of the introduced *S. noctilio* and our native species that attack conifers is the former's ability to successfully infest apparently healthy trees when the wasp is abundant. At low population densities, it prefers weakened or damaged hosts. Native woodwasps, on the other hand, are restricted to dead or dying pines regardless of the insect's population density. Foliage of a heavily infested pine changes from dark green to light green, and eventually becomes reddish-brown as the growing season progresses. Characteristically, the mid-bole of an infested tree is stained with whitish rivulets of pitch and small drops or beads of resin. The beads identify sites where eggs have been deposited. Infested sections of the bole are riddled with larval galleries packed tightly with frass (sawdust-like wood chips mixed with the insect's waste) (Fig. 3B). Adults exit through perfectly round emergence holes approximately one quarter of an inch in diameter (Fig. 4), though hole sizes vary according to the size of the wasp.

General biology

Sirex has a single generation each year. The adults are active and resin becomes visible on the bark of infested tree trunks anytime from July through September. The female uses her strong ovipositor to drill several holes through the bark and outer sapwood in the vicinity of each oviposition site. She injects into one of these holes an egg, spores of a certain fungus that she carries with her in small, internal sacs near the base of the ovipositor, and a toxic mucus produced by a gland in the same region. The fungus and mucus create a favorable feeding site for the larvae and eventually their combined effect kills the host. All larval stages

continued on page 18



Figure 4. Woodwasp emergence holes.

Sirex noctilio (continued)

feed on a combination of the fungus and fungus-infested wood. In general, oviposition occurs on the mid-bole of suppressed or otherwise weakened poletimber sized trees (i.e., 5 to 8 inches in diameter) or larger trees that are stressed or damaged.

Management

Currently, major efforts to deal with the European woodwasp in New York State center around attempts to determine its distribution and to identify infested trees and stands. Though as of yet we have no solid evidence of its successful establishment in red pine, this is the species of major concern. Forest owners with Scotch or red pine should inspect their stands for evidence of an infestation by closely examining the stems of any Scotch or red pine (especially the former) with a discolored crown for streams of pitch and pitch “beads” associated with egg laying sites. Suspect conditions should be reported to your regional office of the DEC, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Kim Adams, SUNY ESF tree health specialist (kbadams@esf.edu; (315)-470-6745), or a regional inspector from the Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Remember, many insects attack dying, stressed or recently killed pines. Before contacting the organizations noted above, be reasonably sure you do not have an infestation of common bark beetles or native woodborers. Key characteristics to look for are 1) the presence of large, wasp-like insects on, or flying in the vicinity of, the mid-bole and 2) “beads” and short, narrow streaks of whitish resin on the mid-bole. ▲

This is the 82nd 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/web site/dlf/privland/forprot/health/nyfo/index.html>.

Forest Food: Mast

JIM FINLEY

Autumn is harvest time – a time of Abounty. Animals prepare for winter by adding fat or by storing or caching nuts and fruits for the winter from the produce. Our forests are an important source of food for many wildlife species. Mast is a common word describing forest-derived food. Derived from old English, “mast” means literally forest food, the nuts and seeds that accumulate on the forest floor.

Walking through a forest in the autumn, many people almost instinctively look for mast – the acorns, beechnuts, hickory nuts that ripen this time of year. Fall is a good time to evaluate the forest’s potential to provide important food resources to prepare wildlife for winter. However, to provide for food for wildlife, it is necessary to evaluate a forest’s potential to provide mast throughout the year. Is there mast available in all seasons?

Mast can be either hard or soft. Hard mast is the nuts and acorns. Soft mast is the berries, cherries, maple seeds, and other fleshy seeds produced by the

forest. While many plants yield their seeds in the fall, others provide seeds at other times in the year. Mast available in the summer is unlikely to still be available in the winter. To meet the needs of diverse wildlife species, it is essential to have diverse mast production, with different species producing mast at different times of the year.

Mast diversity may be a measure of forest health. Consider a forest with only one tree species producing mast. If an insect, disease, or natural disaster occurs, everything depending on that mast is at risk. However, if the forest has a mix of tree species, the loss of one may not be as devastating. The oak forests common to much of the Northeast provide an excellent example of the merits of diversity.

The acorns of red oaks take two summers to mature, while the acorns on white oaks mature in one summer. If a late spring frost happens to kill the flowers of both red and white oaks, there is still the potential to have acorns in the mast mix that fall, because the red oaks may have set fruit



*Working with you to manage your woodlot
and consult your timber to the highest bidder.*

**FORESTRY CONSULTANT
JARED KRAMER**

Forest Management Services Inc.
11164 Holland Glenwood Rd., Holland NY 14080
716-537-9768




B.S. Forestry Management • Estimates & Evaluation • 7% Consulting Fee

the year before. While the amount of mast may be down, wildlife species depending on acorns still have something available to them. Careful forest management can help you to maintain oak diversity as well as create or retain tree species diversity.

Hard mast is normally associated with fall, but soft mast can also be very important in the fall. Some soft mast species remain available well into winter. Some of these important species are common on smaller tree and shrub species. Hawthorne, crabapples, and mountain holly often retain their fruit well into the fall or early winter. Managing for these understory species involves creating open conditions allowing light to penetrate to the forest floor.

Walking in the forest, get to know the species that create mast. Learn where they occur. Consider when they mature and are available to the wildlife in the forest. Evaluate if the diversity of mast species provides for a diversity of wildlife species.

To learn more about managing for mast and other resources for wildlife habitat, request a copy of Management Practices for Enhancing Wildlife Habitat or Forest Stewardship Series #5: Wildlife.

The Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program provides publications on a variety of topics related to woodland management for private landowners. For a list of free publications, call 1-800-235-WISE (toll-free), send e-mail to RNRExt@psu.edu, or write to: Forest Stewardship Program, Forest Resources Extension, The Pennsylvania State University, 7 Ferguson Building, University Park, PA 16802. The Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry and USDA Forest Service, in partnership with the Penn State's Forest Resources Extension, sponsor the Forest Stewardship Program in Pennsylvania. 

Jim Finley is Associate Professor of Forest Resources at Penn State University. He can be reached at fj4@psu.edu or 814-863-0401.

NYFOA Awards (continued)

Chapter to operate in reaching members and other private forest owner outreach in the area.

- Each Chapter is urged to name one volunteer individual or couple each year for recognition by the state membership at the annual meeting in 2006

- This is not a competitive award at the state level. NYFOA wants to recognize some one from each chapter each year.

- With the help of chapter leadership, a press release for local distribution will be prepared for each awardee.

Please send the name of your "Chapter Activity" awardee, and any

suggestions on individuals for the statewide awards to Ron Pedersen by December 1, 2005.

Ronald W. Pedersen
22 Vandenburg Lane
Latham, NY 12110
Email: rwp22@nycap.rr.com,
Phone: (518) 785-6061

RICHARD CIPPERLY **NORTH COUNTRY FORESTRY LLC**

- HARVEST PLANNING
- MANAGEMENT PLANS
- LOSS APPRAISAL
- CHRISTMAS TREE MANAGEMENT



8 Stonehurst Drive
Queensbury, NY 12804
(518) 793-3545 or 1-800-862-3451 SINCE 1964

"I AM FARM BUREAU."



IF YOU CARE ABOUT FARMS,
YOU NEED TO BE, TOO.

*"Nobody speaks up for family farmers better than Farm Bureau.
That's why I am a member. Always will be.
You should be, too."*

—BOB O'BRIEN, FOREST MANAGER, COTTON-HANLON, INC., CAYUTA, N.Y.

- Grassroots action to protect farmland and the rural landscape.
- Fighting to advance family farm businesses for coming generations.
- Affordable and dependable workers comp and insurance programs.
- Ag education programs for schools and farm-PR programs to the public.
- Big cash savings on Dodge trucks, Grainger supplies, and *much* more.

Membership in Farm Bureau isn't just for farmers. It is for anyone who cares about or lives in rural New York. Join now. Send your membership check for \$65 to N.Y. Farm Bureau, Box 992, Glenmont, N.Y. 12077

OR sign up at www.nyfb.org /800-342-4143

Entomology

- Peach Bark Beetle - Results of Research and News of Work in Progress, Douglas C. Allen, January/February, p. 16
Maple Webworm is Often Prevalent During Forest Tent Caterpillar Outbreaks, Douglas C. Allen, March/April, p. 16
Ecology: Ginseng Threatened by Bambi's Appetite, Erik Stokstad, May/June, p. 19
The Large Carpenter Bee, Douglas C. Allen, July/August, p. 16
Northeastern Extraordinaire, Shavonne Sargent, September/October, p. 8
An Outburst of Lecanium Scale - a Sticky Business, Douglas C. Allen, September/October, p. 16
Sirex noctilio - An introduced wood-boring wasp, Douglas C. Allen, November/December, p. 16

Forest Policy & Law

- Commentary - New York's Forest Tax Laws, Scott K. Gray III, May/June, p. 18
Why 480-A Works And How Not to Fix It, John R. Sullivan, November/December, p. 12

Miscellaneous

- Compensating Consulting Foresters, Jerry Michael, January/February, p. 8
Trends in New York Stumpage Prices, Jerry Brian and Duane Chapman, May/June, p. 8
Planning the Future Forest, Thom J. McEvoy, May/June, p. 12
To Know a Tree, Shavonne Sargent, May/June, p. 17
Cornell's "Other" Ag Experiment Station Works To Improve the State's and Region's Forestry Resource, Michael P. Voiland, September/October, p. 12
Know Your Trees - White Spruce, January/February, p. 22
Know Your Trees - Balsam Fir, March/April, p. 22
Know Your Trees - Eastern Hemlock, May/June, p. 22
Know Your Trees - American Larch, July/August, p. 22
Know Your Trees - Northeastern White Cedar, September/October, p. 22
Know Your Trees - Red Cedar, November/December, p. 22
Wild Things in Your Woodlands: Chestnut-sided warbler, Kristi Sullivan, May/June, p. 15
Wild Things in Your Woodlands: Eastern newt, Kristi Sullivan, July/August, p. 15
Wild Things in Your Woodlands:
Eastern Screech-Owl, Kristi Sullivan,
September/October, p. 10
Wild Things in Your Woodlands: Black
Bear, Kristi Sullivan, November/
December, p. 10

NYFOA News

- NYFOA General Director Candidates -
Election Form, January/February, p. 12

271 County Road #9
Chenango Forks, N.Y. 13746

(607) 648-5512
E-mail snowhawke@juno.com



Timber Appraisal
Timber Sales

Forest Stewardship Plans
Forestry 480-A Plans

Restore The American Chestnut
Google: "American Chestnut Foundation District 7"

43rd Annual Spring Program - February 26, 2005, January/February, p. 13
DEC Proposes Changes in Cooperating Forester Program - NYFOA's Response, January/February, p. 19
NYFOA Awards, March/April, p. 14
NYFOA Merger Announcement, July/August, p. 11
New Executive Director for NYFOA, November/December, p. 9

Stewardship

Avoid Trespass During Hunting Season, Bob King, January/February, p. 20
Pineholm: 50 years of a Multi-value Tree Farm, Norm Richards, March/April, p. 8
No-Op to Co-Op, Barbara A. Tucker, March/April, p. 18
Special NYFOA Member Tour - Big Flats, May/June, p. 11
Chronology of a Forest Steward, Dan Palm, May/June, p. 20
The Palm Family - 2005 Outstanding Tree Farmers, July/August, p. 21
Someday...When You Can't Hear So Well, Jim Ochtorski, November/December, p. 15
Forest Food: Mast, Jim Finley, November/December, p. 19

Woodlot Management

Ask A Professional: Crop Tree Management, January/February, p. 6
Ask A Professional: Manage a woodlot to provide optimal habitat for Wood Thrush and Cerulean Warbler, March/April, p. 6
Ask A Professional: Prepare a rural site for the planting of seedling trees, May/June, p. 6
Ask A Professional: Manage a woodlot to restore production to a sugarbush, July/August, p. 6
Ask A Professional: What to consider about girdling, September/October, p. 6
Ask A Professional: What ecological effect does hay-scented fern have on the forest, November/December, p. 6
HOW TO: Manage a Woodlot for Firewood, January/February, p. 10
HOW TO: Protect Newly Planted Seedlings, March/April, p. 5
HOW TO: Implement Forest Farming Practices, May/June, p. 5
HOW TO: Manage Vole Damage, July/August, p. 5
HOW TO: Improve Hardwood Forests-One Seedling at a Time, September/October, p. 5
HOW TO: Protect Trees from Winter Damage, November/December, p. 5
Arranging a Timber Sale, Brian Bullard, January/February, p. 14
Acorn Planting, Ed and Wanda Piestrak, May/June, p. 16
Invaders!, Shavonne Sargent, July/August, p. 9
Pond Management, Rebecca Schneider, July/August, p. 12
Portable Skidder Bridges Made Easy, Steve Bick, July/August, p. 18
Fencing To Exclude Deer, Edward and Wanda Piestrak, September/October, p. 18
Keeping Your Chainsaw in Shape, Joe Smith, September/October, p. 20

“I AM FARM BUREAU.”



**IF YOU CARE ABOUT FARMS,
YOU NEED TO BE, TOO.**

*“Nobody speaks up for family farmers better than Farm Bureau.
That’s why I am a member. Always will be.
You should be, too.”*

—RICH JEROME, GRAPE GROWER, FARM RETAILER, NAPLES, N.Y.

- Grassroots action to protect farmland and the rural landscape.
- Fighting to advance family farm businesses for coming generations.
- Affordable and dependable workers comp and insurance programs.
- Ag education programs for schools and farm-PR programs to the public.
- Big cash savings on Dodge trucks, Grainger supplies, and *much* more.

Membership in Farm Bureau isn't just for farmers. It is for anyone who cares about or lives in rural New York. Join now. Send your membership check for \$65 to N.Y. Farm Bureau, Box 992, Glenmont, N.Y. 12077
OR sign up at www.nyfb.org /800-342-4143

Know Your Trees

RED CEDAR

(*Juniperus virginiana* Linnaeus)



Red Cedar, a small-sized, slow-growing forest tree is common to the poor, dry soils of the lower Hudson and Mohawk Valleys, is not common in the higher Adirondack region, and is infrequent in central and western New York, except on barren soils adjoining the Finger Lakes. It is found growing only in open woods and pastures where plenty of sun-light is obtained. The wood is soft, light, fragrant, brittle, dull red in color with contrasting white sap wood, extremely durable in contact with the soil, and is easily worked. It is largely used in the manufacture of pencils, cedar chests, cabinet work, and interior finish. As a post wood, it has few superiors. *Bark*—light reddish brown in color,

separating in long, narrow shreddy strips fringed along the edges.

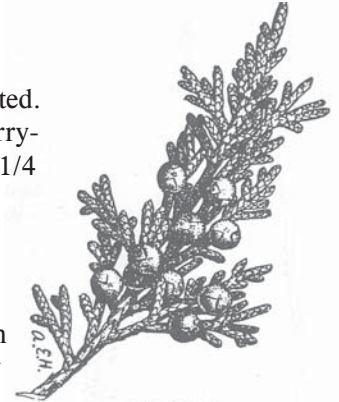
Twigs—generally 4-sided on mature trees, green in color from the covering of minute leaves, not flattened or arranged in fan-shaped clusters, becoming reddish brown in color after the fall of the leaves.

Winter buds—minute, covered by the overlapping scale-like leaves.

Leaves—various shades of green to reddish brown in color, persistent from three to four years, 2 kinds: (1) scale-like, closely overlapping, opposite in pairs, giving the twig a 4-sided appearance; (2) awl-shaped, from 1/2 to 3/4 inch long, usually on young trees or more vigorous shoots and yellowish green to light bluish green in color,

sharp-pointed.

Fruit—a berry-like cone, 1/4 inch in diameter, light blue in color, with bloom at maturity in the autumn of



the first year. Fruit remains on the tree during the winter, highly prized by birds. Seeds: from 1 to 2, wineglass, brown in color, covered with a thin, sweet flesh with resinous flavor. *Outstanding features*—berry-like fruit; two kinds of leaves, sharp and awl-like and flat and scale-like. ▲

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>



Future Forest Consulting, Inc.

DEC Cooperating Forest Consultants
Corey Figueiredo and Scott Graham

- FOREST PRODUCT MARKING & MARKETING
- MANAGEMENT PLANS
- FOREST ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN
- FOREST TAXATION PLANNING
- NON-COMMERCIAL FOREST IMPROVEMENT FOR TIMBER, WILDLIFE, F.I.P. & S.I.P
- TIMBER APPRAISALS
- SUGARBUSH MANAGEMENT
- BOUNDARY MAINTENANCE
- TREE PLANTING
- WETLAND DESIGN
- TIMBER TRESPASS APPRAISALS
- ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION

Providing "Quality Forest Management" to Western and Central NY including the Adirondack Region.

www.futureforestinc.com

Phone: 585-374-2799
FAX: 585-374-2595

7812 Hunts Hollow Rd.
Naples, NY 14512

E-mail: futureforest@aol.com

BLUEBERRY RIDGE STEWARDSHIP SERVICES, LLC

Land Use Planning,
Zoning, Estate Planning,
Land Conservation Strategies &
Conservation Easement Support

Contact: Lawrence E. Howard, Esq.
(518) 674-4408 Fax: (518) 674-3015
E-mail: BRSS@albany.net



THE MARKETPLACE

HUNTING LEASES WANTED - Landowner receives per acre rate plus named as additionally insured. All NY and PA parcels considered. References. Since 1995! Wildlife Outdoor Enterprises - Big Flats, NY (607) 562-7414 or WildlifeOutdoors@aol.com

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

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

Deadline for material is December 1, 2005.



ADVERTISING RATES

Display Ads (per insert)
\$7 per column inch

Full Page:
\$210 (30 column inch)

Half Page:
\$105 (15 column inch)

Quarter Page:
\$52.50 (7.5 column inch)

Eighth Page:
\$26.25 (3.75 column inch)

Marketplace:
\$10 minimum for 25 words
Each additional word: 10 cents

For More Information Contact:
Mary Beth Malmsheimer, Editor
(315) 655-4110
mmalmshe@syr.edu

Introducing

TREE PRO'S Miracle Tube

A seamless Tree Shelter

- Flared top.
- No assembly required.
- 100% recycled materials.
- Manufactured in the USA.
- Reusable ties are available.

Call us when you need
weed mats, mycorrhizal and
controlled release fertilizer.

TREE PRO's original design is still available.

Free sample 800-875-8071

3180 W. 250 N. West Lafayette, IN 47905

treepro.com



"I AM FARM BUREAU."



IF YOU CARE ABOUT FARMS,
YOU NEED TO BE, TOO.

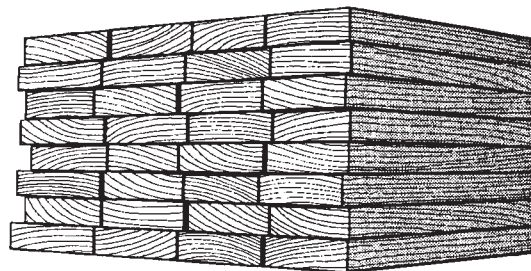
*"Nobody speaks up for family farmers better than Farm Bureau.
That's why I am a member. Always will be.
You should be, too."*

—BETHANY RUSSELL, ORGANIC FARM MANAGER, PULASKI, N.Y.

- Grassroots action to protect farmland and the rural landscape.
- Fighting to advance family farm businesses for coming generations.
- Affordable and dependable workers comp and insurance programs.
- Ag education programs for schools and farm-PR programs to the public.
- Big cash savings on Dodge trucks, Grainger supplies, and *much* more.

Membership in Farm Bureau isn't just for farmers. It is for anyone who cares about or lives in rural New York. Join now. Send your membership check for \$65 to N.Y. Farm Bureau, Box 992, Glenmont, N.Y. 12077

OR sign up at www.nyfb.org /800-342-4143



More Valuable Logs . . . More Valuable Lumber

- Stop End Splits on Logs

- Prevent End Checking Losses

Use the Best Known Products in the World

ANCHORSEAL[®]
End Sealer for Logs & Lumber

- eliminate up to 90% or more of end checking
- give customers a more valuable product

LogSavers[®]

- "s-irons" made from recycled plastic
- saw thru with no damage to saws or veneer knives
- no more iron stains in valuable veneer logs

For samples or more information, contact:



FAX: 716-833-0120 **716-833-9366**
U·C COATINGS CORPORATION

P.O. Box 1066 • Buffalo, NY 14215 • U.S.A.

website: www.uccoatings.com

email: nyfoa@uccoatings.com

US/CN Toll Free: 1-888-END-COAT

Manufactured right here in New York State - Shipped World-wide