The New York Forest Owner

A Publication of The New York Forest Owners Association

January/February 2006

Pond Owners Should be Aware of Winter Dangers – Page 19

NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION
GROWING TOMORROW'S TREES TODAY
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In This Issue . . .

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 Malmsheimer****, 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.

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Cover: Photo shows a pond that has frozen over during winter. See article on page 19 for informaiton on the dangers of having a winter pond and how to manage the pond for winter activities.

From The Executive Director

After nearly three months on the job as NYFOA's new Executive Director (and almost six months as returned New Yorker!), I'm already feeling very at home. I want to thank all of the Chapter leaders, other Association members, and NYFOA's partners who have extended such a warm welcome. I especially want to thank Dan Palm who has helped to make the Executive Director transition so smooth and effective.

I began traveling around the state to meet with the chapter leaders and members. I'm appreciating hearing about what you are doing to further forest stewardship in New York State; and getting your ideas on how I can be of the most help to your groups in achieving your goals. I am truly impressed by what I'm learning. There are a tremendous number of innovative programs taking place all over the state thanks to the efforts of the chapters and their partners such as Cornell Cooperative Extension, the RC&D Councils, and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts!

Working in cooperation with Kristi Sullivan, Program Coordinator for Cornell University's Department of Natural Resources, and The Nature Conservancy, NYFOA has applied for several grants that would enable the Association to develop and offer a new educational program on biodiversity. The objectives of the Biodiversity Education for Private Landowners project are to: introduce forest landowners to the concepts of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation; to expose landowners to major issues that threaten biodiversity conservation such as invasive species, fragmentation, loss of vernal pools and other wetlands, high-grading, and lack of forest stewardship planning; and to encourage active biodiversity conservation on New York state's private non-industrial forest lands.

Peter Smallidge, State Extension Forester (and NYFOA Board Member) and I met with Rob Davies, New York State Forester, and key members of his staff in Albany in December. One of the topics that we discussed is the critical role that New York's private forest owners can play in limiting the spread of invasive species and forest pests – one of the largest threats facing the long term sustainable of working forests in the state. Because of the key importance of this emerging and growing concern, the next several issues of *Forest Owner* will prominently feature management information to help members be better prepared.

Alan White (NYFOA Board President) and I recently met with some of the other representatives of the newly formed Council of Forest Resource Organizations and members of Governor George Pataki's staff. We discussed the top four shared legislative priorities of the group – to exclude trees from the definition of real property for the purpose of property tax assessment, to enact a refundable income tax credit to phase out school taxes on forested parcels over a ten-year period, to enact legislation to reduce property tax assessments by value of conservation easements, to require State payment of school and property taxes on value of easements, and to ensure that forest inventory data for New York State are kept current through continued investment of State funds. Besides NYFOA, other members of this advocacy organization include NY Farm Bureau, Empire State Forest Products Association, Society of American Foresters, NY Tree Farm Program, and others.

NYFOA's Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the New York Farm Show at the State Fairgrounds on February 25. The NYFOA staff and board are planning the agenda for this meeting including board member elections, an important vote on an amendment to the Association Bylaws, and an exciting awards and recognition program. A series of forestry (and related topics) workshops will take place February 23 and 24 at the DEC Log Cabin on the Fairgrounds. Thanks to NYFOA Board member John Druke and Charley Porter from NYSDEC for putting together another outstanding program this year.

Register now to attend the Annual Meeting and make plans to participate in some of the great educational sessions. I hope I'll see you there!

–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***, woodswalks, 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

NYFOA Loses a Good Friend

Francis A. "Mike" Demeree passed away December 17, 2005.

Mike was a charter member of NYFOA and a Charter member of the New York Forest Practice Board. Mike was one of those people I feel proud to have known. He provided warm, effective leadership in the private forestry arena. In 1985, he was recognized as the National Outstanding Tree Farmer for that leadership and being the "Father of 480-a" (New York's Forest Tax Law).

Steve Wolfgram (former ESFPA Executive VP) at the Demeree Tree Farm taken shortly after Mike was awarded National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year in 1985. Photo courtesy of ESFPA archives.

My first contact with Mike was a phone call in 1970. The state was going to lay off seventy foresters. I was a new kid on the block and had just moved to Catskill from Massachusetts, bought a home and was the DEC forester for Albany County. I was extremely threatened by this proposed layoff and talked my way into a Channel Ten news interview discussing the misguided decision being proposed. Mike saw the news segment and made a few phone calls to DEC leadership. He then called me to thank me and then warn me I'd be called into Albany the next day for a chewing out… but not to worry, I'd survive. His phone call made that trip to Albany bearable. That call was the beginning of a long friendship.

Once I was promoted to help administer private forestry programs statewide, Mike was one of my most valued sources of guidance. I could always count on him for sound advice. Never combative, always a gentleman, Mike understood what could lead to acceptable, effective public policy for the forests of New York. He had the presence, sincerity, and knowledge to sell 480-a to the New York legislature.

I was at a dinner honoring Mike. A local farmer told the audience about buying a truck from Demeree Chevrolet in Bainbridge and how Mike had come to his aid in repairing the vehicle with an effort far beyond what one would expect. The farmer was in a period of financial crisis and Mike's assistance meant a lot to him. That story confirmed, for me, a part of Mike Demeree's character.

Working for DEC offered me an opportunity to grow a large adoptive family of friends, mentors, and guidance counselors. Most of them are NYFOA members. In trying to recognize, in small part, Mike Demeree, I have a chance to say thank you. It's the people volunteering that give NYFOA our strength.

–Michael Greason
Catskill, NY

Francis "Mike" Demeree of Bainbridge, an honorary member of ESFPA since 1980, passed away on December 17, at the age of 96.

Mike was instrumental in revising the forest tax law into its present form as 480(a). When the Forest tax law was under revision in 1974, Mike personally walked the proposal through the halls of the legislature in order to help lawmakers understand the need for and benefits of public support of private forest management in New York State. Mike was a charter member of New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) in 1963; in 1969 he was honored as the second person to receive NYFOA's Heiberg Award, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to forestry and conservation in New York State. A charter member of New York Tree Farm (Tree Farm #6) in 1956, Mike was recognized as the National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year in 1985; his nomination was supported by his long commitment to sustainable forestry, the efforts put forth to gain property tax relief for private landowners, and his efforts in establishing NYFOA.

Mike was appointed as a charter member of the New York State Forest Practice Board in 1949, and served as Chairman for several years. Among the many awards he received for his conservation and forestry activities, Mike was one of the first ever bestowed an honorary membership in the Society of American Foresters. The New York SAF presented Mike with the tribute in 1973 in recognition of his long efforts to promote private land stewardship and the innovative management practices he implemented on his Tree Farm.

A true pioneer in the arena of forest stewardship, Mike will be missed by all in the forestry community and the generations of families in the Susquehanna River valley for whom the holiday season started with a trip to Demeree's Tree Farm.

–Mike Burns
Deputy Director
Empire State Forest Products Association

HOW TO: *Protect Forest Roads*

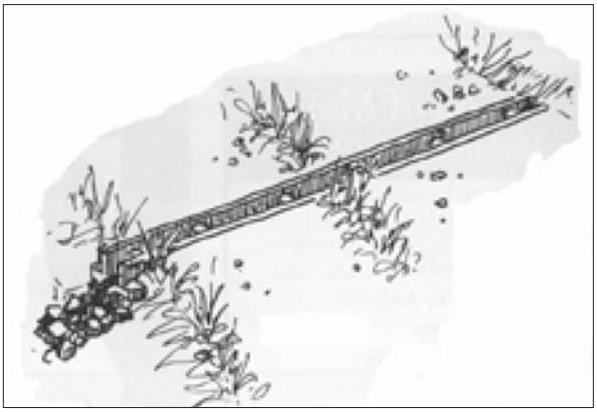
JOSEPH SMITH

The woodland road's worst enemy is water. It makes travel difficult, and if it's not diverted, rainwater can wash away a road surface in a single summer storm. You can avoid problems like this through the installation of simple water diversion structures. If your road has stretches of continuous slope where water can pick up energy and do damage, you can use open-topped culverts and the flexible-belt structure described below to move water off the road surface and into the undisturbed forest floor, where it will be dispersed and absorbed.

An open-topped culvert, box culvert, or "Thank You Ma'am" will drain the road without impeding access. Nail two 2 x 8 pressure-treated boards to a 2 x 12 base, approximately 3 3/4 inches apart. Insert a spacer every 4 feet using a section of 1-inch pipe, and drive a spike through each pipe. Bury the structure in the road surface so that the top of the 2 x 8s is level with the road surface, and then carefully compact the soil around the box culvert. The structure should be aligned so that it is at a 30- to 45-degree angle to a line perpendicular to the centerline of the road, and the outlet end, obviously, should be lower than the opposite end. Fill the area below the outlet with stones to act as riprap. If properly installed, open-topped culverts will be self-cleaning, but they should be regularly inspected to make sure they are operating properly.

Here's an even simpler device that will divert water while allowing you to continue to use the road, with the added advantage of requiring little or no maintenance. All you need is a 3/8-inch x 11-inch standard-grade rubber conveyor belt. These can sometimes be salvaged by visiting a stone quarry or gravel pit or purchased from a manufacturer. A good source for belt manufacturers, where you may be able to pick up some rejects, is *www.thomasregisterdirectory.com*. (Search under "Material Handling" and then "Belting" — there are several dozen listed there). Secure the belt between two pressure-treated 2 x 6s so that 6 inches of the belt is exposed above the boards. Then set the belt sandwich into a trench cut into the road so that at least 3 inches of belt is exposed above the road surface. Fill in the hole and compact it. This structure should be placed with at least a 10-degree angle to the centerline of the road, and the outfall should be filled with riprap to avoid undercutting the road.

Be sure to install enough diversions to protect long grades. The farther the water can travel on the road, the more destructive energy it will accumulate. The proper distance between diversions depends on the slope and the soil's potential for erosion. As a rule, they should be placed 125–150 feet apart on a 5 percent slope (the equivalent of a 5-foot rise or fall in elevation over 100 feet of road), while on a 10 percent grade, they should be only 75–100 feet apart. A good road makes a good woodlot. Whether your woods are used for hiking, hunting, or harvesting, keeping soil from washing away is essential.



Box Culvert

Flexible Belt Culvert

This article originally appeared in the Summer 2005 issue of Northern Woodlands Magazine *under the title of "Protecting Forest Roads" and was reprinted in the August 2005 issue of the Forestry Source. Both the text and articles are reprinted here by permission. For more information contact* Northern Woodlands *at 800-290-5232.*

Smith is director of the Forest and Wood Products Institute and is a freelance author and illustrator. For more information, contact Smith at the Forest and Wood Products Institute, Mount Wachusett Community College, 444 Green Street, Gardner, MA 01440; (978) 630-9360; jsmith@mwcc.mass.edu.

For more information on protecting forest roads in New York State visit *www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/bmp*

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:

My property includes pasture and an area that was inappropriately logged by the former owner. I am a very patient person with the ability to do the best thing for my property which I love. I wish to replant at least a reasonable portion of the new parcel with trees. I am considering black walnut trees for part of the project and I would welcome help as to preparation for a mid sized tree planting plan as well as your thoughts as to tree mix. Finally, as a new landowner, how do I get started in learning more about stewardship?

ANSWER:

Many landowners are similarly drawn to the potential for a positive impact through tree planting. As you anticipate, you will be rewarded in many different ways through a reforestation effort. You also likely recognize the complexity of what you wish to accomplish and the need to acquire a solid educational foundation before you begin. Let me start by noting two caveats that you should consider before getting into some specifics of reforestation. First, depending on what's around your property, you might consider leaving some pasture as open- or brush-land which is critical habitat for some wildlife species, especially song birds, in much of NY. Thus, think about tree planting within the bigger picture of what you want from your property. Second, because the planting season is fast approaching, you need to know that tree planting is best started the

Tree shelters are critical in some areas to protect seedlings from browsing by deer, mice and voles. The solid shelters, as pictured, also provide an enhanced growing environment for the seedling. Open, mesh or screen shelters protect the seedling but allow the seedlings to acclimate more naturally in the fall. All tree shelters require annual maintenance to ensure the effectiveness.

summer or fall before you wish to plant. While you can initiate the planning process in the winter or spring, it requires more effort and diligence on your part to ensure success.

There are several organizations that can assist with your effort. You should start with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation for private lands forestry assistance, including a site visit. In some parts of the state, such as within the NYC watershed boundary, you can contact the Watershed Forestry Program for forestry assistance including a site visit. A few local offices of Cornell Cooperative Extension will also make site visits. The DEC and other groups with forestry as part of their mission will help guide you in a management plan and perhaps a reforestation plan. Finally, the local Soil and Water Conservation District can assist with information on soils, topographic maps and aerial photographs. Many SWCD will also visit your property to assist with tree planting projects.

There are 3 key issues to consider. First is to develop a planting plan. The plan will include the objective for planting, soil conditions, species mix, spacing, animal protection, and maintenance. Second is to match the soils you have to those species which are adapted to thrive on those soils. Mismatching soils and species is one of the biggest cause of reforestation failures and is the one most easily prevented. Your interest in black walnut is common because of the timber, wildlife and aesthetic value of this species. However, walnut is quite site demanding and will fail in more places than it will succeed. Be certain of site conditions before you plant walnut. The source of trees is also important. The DEC sells trees through its NYS tree nursery at Saratoga. These trees are from local sources and suited in general to the climate of NY. Third, is the need to remove competition from other plants before you plant. This topic was covered in the May 2005 issue of New York Forest Owner, but a special case for you is replanting amongst the high-graded area. Try to leave as much debris in place as possible as a barrier to deer herbivory. Unfortunately this is also a barrier to your planting efforts. You will need to find a balance for efficiency. Finally, you will want to accumulate the tools and supplies you need long before the seedlings arrive. Tools might include planting bars, hand pruners, buckets, wire ties, etc. Supplies might include tree shelters, wooden stakes, and flagging. Your actual planting plan should detail out the tools and supplies you need.

The planted seedling must be at the same depth when planted as where it grew in the tree nursery. Look for color changes in the bark or a swollen area on the stem to indicate the correct ground level.

The effort you expend to check soil conditions, to match species to soils, to prepare the site and to develop a planting plan will be rewarded. Planting is an investment in a long-term endeavor and failing to prepare adequately will result in years or decades of frustration. There are several good resources on the internet about tree planting. One internet site is from the Ontario, Canada which has

continued on page 8

good applicability in New York. Their URL is *http://www.lrconline.com/EN_splash.html*

Finally, in the broader consideration of your stewardship interest as a forest owner there are many opportunities. First, there are forest owners that Cornell University has trained as "Master Forest Owner Volunteers" who will make a free site visit to your property. They won't provide technical assistance, but can talk to you as a forest owner with many shared experiences. They are knowledgeable about local resources as well. Call your local office of Cornell Cooperative Extension for a list in your area or visit www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/mfo. Second, there are many educational events scheduled around the state each year. These are offered through the New York Forest Owners Association (www.nyfoa.org) and through Cornell Cooperative Extension. Finally, a good resource for generally getting more informed about your forest is at *www.forestandrange.org*, a site coordinated by the national Cooperative Extension system. This site includes learning modules on a variety of topics. One module we produced is called "You and Your Forest - A guide for understanding and managing your forest". Several other good modules exist. Our module will be coming out in print form later this winter or early spring. There are also a number of educational articles available for free on the internet. I have several at *www.forestconnect.info*

Good luck with your reforestation project.

Peter J. Smallidge, NYS Extension Forester and Director, Arnot Teaching and Research Forest. Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. pjs23@cornell.edu

NEWS & NOTES

DEC Offering Seedlings for Sale

The 2006 seedling ordering information is now available on line at *http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dlf/privland/nursery/treeshrub.html* or via a pamphlet at your regional DEC office. A wide variety of species for a wide variety of purposes are available at very reasonable prices.

Both the website and pamphlet also have planting instructions. All requests are filled after Jan. 3 in the order they are received. Popular species sell out quickly.

Of interest to many are the 4 packets of shrubs and trees for specific wildlife, riparian or regional use. Also check out the school seedling program where schools can obtain packets of seedlings for specific purposes, such as wildlife habitat.

Free Seedlings

On Saturday May 6, 2006, from dawn to dusk, white spruce seedlings will be distributed to all comers free of charge, in any number and size, from Henry Kernan's forest property. The address is 204 County Highway 40, South Worcester, NY, 12197. It will not be necessary to dig the seedlings because they germinate in moss and need only be lifted by means of a garden fork, which will be available. This year will be the 16th year such distributions have taken place, with more than 30,000 having been taken away. For more information please contact Henry Kernan at (607) 397-8805.

Reaching Woodland Owners On-line

Extension programs continually seek ways to reach and engage new audiences. As internet adoption rates climb, the web presents an ever greater opportunity to do so. *But how to do it right?*

The University of Minnesota Extension Service has just released a new study of internet resources targeting family forest owners. Drawing on the insights of Minnesota's forestry community and the managers of 21 existing sites nationwide, the report includes 10 recommendations to guide the development of new internet resources targeting family forest owners.

The full report is available at http://www.extension.umn.edu/woodlands/internet/. Feel free to distribute the report to colleagues.

Woodlot Calendar

Eastern Coyote Concerns, Forests & Fish Habitat, and American Chestnut Recovery Talks.
February 11, 2006 (Saturday)
1:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M at the Woodland Owner's Winter Meeting, Spencer-Van Etten High School, Spencer, NY.

Coyotes are become more abundant, but will they become a problem? This and other important woodland owner issues will be addressed by experts at the 2006 Woodland Owner's Winter Meeting, which is free and open to the public. Cornell wildlife expert Paul Curtis will review what we know about dealing with the Eastern coyote near homes and farms. Cornell Fishery professor Cliff Kraft will discuss how forestry plays a role in enhancing fish habitat, especially trout. Bill Powell of SUNY ESF will explain the status of American chestnut and the development of blight resistant trees. The 2006 Woodland Owner's Winter Meeting is hosted by the New York Forest Owners Association - Southern Finger Lakes Chapter and the Cornell Cooperative Extension SCNY Agriculture Team.

Please pre-register by calling Cornell Cooperative Extension at (607) 535-7161. In case of weather changes, we want to inform participants. There is no fee for the seminar. It is open to the public and refreshments available.

What topics would *YOU* like to see covered in the Forest Owner? Contact the Editor at mmalmshe@syr.edu

Wild Things in Your Woodlands

Kristi Sullivan

Flying Squirrels

Northern (Glaucomys sabrinus) and southern (Glaucomys volans) flying squirrels are the smallest species of squirrels in New York State, weighing just a few ounces. Similar in appearance, the northern flying squirrel is larger (10 to 15 inches long) and reddish-brown in color, while its relative is smaller (8 to 10 inches in length) and mouse-like grey in color. Both species have soft, dense, silky fur, with white belly hair, and broad, flattened, furry tails that are about 5 inches long. Like most nocturnal animals, their gleaming black eyes are large and round. Prominent flaps of skin stretch from their wrists to their ankles giving them the ability to glide through the forest. In both species, males and females are similar in size. Mating takes place early in the spring, and the young are born in May or June. In the wild, flying squirrels typically live to be four or five years old.

Because of their nocturnal habits, few people are fortunate enough to have seen a flying squirrel in the wild, and many are unaware that these nighttime creatures exist. Emerging at dusk, they glide from the forest canopy down to the forest floor to feed. Although they don't truly fly (bats are the only mammals that do), they have two large flaps of skin that extend from their wrists to their ankles and act as miniature parachutes. When leaving a tree, they initially drop straight down for about 3 feet or so before flattening out into a glide. Like a miniature hang glider, a flying squirrel can move its legs to change the position of its membranes and swerve around obstacles. The higher a squirrel is when it drops out of a tree, the greater the speed and distance it can travel. From heights of 100 feet, they can reach speeds of up to 20 mph, and glide as far as 50 yards (over half the length of a football field).

Two species of flying squirrels are common in New York State and their ranges overlap, though the northern flying squirrel is more common in the northern part of the state, and the southern flying squirrel is most prevalent south of the Mohawk River Valley. In regions where their ranges overlap, they usually separate by habitat. Both species require large areas of very mature, deciduous or mixed forest with large trees and cavities for nesting and escape cover. Flying squirrels usually occupy old woodpecker holes in the winter, but in warmer months often build or re-use existing leaf nests in the crotch of trees. They line their nests with shredded bark, lichens, grasses, and moss. Forest stands inhabited by these animals need to be relatively open beneath the tree canopy to provide unobstructed gliding areas for movement from tree to tree, and from tree to ground.

In addition to providing adequate nesting sites, older forests support the lichens and fungi that the northern flying squirrel relies on for food, including truffles, the fruiting bodies of underground fungi that live in association with tree roots. These fungi are important to forest health because they increase the ability of trees to absorb nutrients and water from the forest soil. By feeding on the fungi and depositing the spores in the soil through their droppings, squirrels spread the spores throughout the forest, maintaining ecological processes that are important to forest health. Other foods of the northern flying squirrel include seeds, buds, fruit, insects, and small animals. Similarly,

the southern flying squirrel eats seeds, berries, fungi, bark, flowers, insects, and other animal matter. However, the southern flying squirrel prefers hickory nuts and acorns, and is found most often in oak/hickory forests.

During the cold winter months, the southern flying squirrel will forage less often and at times become inactive, while the northern flying squirrel remains active even at the coldest temperatures. Flying squirrels are sociable creatures, and will curl up together to conserve energy. Up to 50 animals have been found huddled up in one nest!

In mature woodlands, landowners can enhance habitat for these wide-eyed creatures of the night by retaining live and dead trees that contain holes, or cavities. An ideal den is an old woodpecker hole about 8 to 20 feet from the ground with an entrance hole of about 1.5 to 2 inches in diameter. In New York, large beech trees often provide cavities for nesting wildlife, and produce seeds that serve as food. In forests without many cavity trees, landowners can install artificial nest boxes on trees to provide shelter for flying squirrels. Retaining or providing woody debris and rotten logs on the forest floor will provide additional sites for flying squirrels to take refuge from predators when foraging, and promote growth of fungi for food.

Landowners wishing to catch a glimpse of a flying squirrel can sometimes catch them feeding at bird feeders after dark. The best way to see a flying squirrel in the daylight is to tap or scratch on dead trees or hollow limbs containing abandoned woodpecker holes. If a squirrel is inside, it will often stick its head out to see what is amiss!

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/. Flying squirrel photo courtesy of Dr. Lloyd Glenn Ingles © California Academy of Sciences

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	_____	$_____
Add Name and Address to Sign			
$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

* Minimun 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).

NYFOA General Director Candidates

The Nominating Committee of NYFOA presents the following slate of four nominees to fill the four openings on the statewide Board of Directors. Each opening is for a three-year term as provided by the Bylaws of NYFOA. Please complete the ballot below and mail to NYFOA by February 13, 2006.

Harry Dieter - *Honeoye Falls, NY*
Harry has been married to wife Patricia for 48 years and has 3 children (youngest deceased from brain cancer in December 2004). He holds both a BS in Industrial Engineering and a MS in Engineering Management from the Rochester Institute of Technology. He retired from Xerox Corporation and is a Korean War veteran. He and Pat have 400+acres in Livingston county with approximately 253 acres of woodland. They do part time farming, forestry management for timber and wildlife. Their last timber sale was in 1996 and another one is now being prepared. Harry has been a MFO volunteer since 1993 and is completing 9 years as NYFO director at large this term. He has been the Outdoor Activities director for WFL Chapter for 5 years and enjoys gardening, travel, forestry, hiking, and retirement.

Steve Teuscher - *Portville, NY*
Steve is a native of Portville NY. He is a graduate of St Bonaventure University with a BBA in Accounting and is a CPA, CMA and CFM and is self-employed as a financial and management consultant. Steve and his wife Donna became Master Forest Owners in September 2005 and enjoy managing the fifty acres of land they now own that Steve's parents bought in 1950. Steve enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time with his two grandchildren.

Alan White - *Halcott Center, NY*
Alan lives in Halcott Center in Greene County where he and his wife Robin operate a small farm specializing in meat goats. They also have additional forested property in Sullivan County. The White's conducted a timber harvest in 1995, and completed 60 acres of "crop tree" timber stand improvement. This winter they plan to begin the restoration of a former sugar bush on their farm. Alan's professional career has included 15 years with Cornell Cooperative Extension and ten years of program development for the New York City Watershed including the creation of the Watershed Forestry Program. He currently works on forest conservation strategies for The Nature Conservancy in the Catskill Mountains. They have three children ages 15-20. In addition to stewardship of their property and farm projects his interests include hunting, fishing, and bowling. He is also serving as a director of the Catskill Landowners Association.

Frank Winkler - *Andes, NY*
Frank and his wife live in the Town of Andes in Delaware County. They have a 100 acre woodlot that has been in the family for over 60 years. For the past 35 years they have managed this woodlot quite intensely. Some of Frank's most rewarding time is spent working and hiking in their woods. He has been employed for 31 years as a resource planner helping livestock and crop farmers comply with environmental requirements.

DETACH AND COMPLETE MAIL BEFORE FEBRUARY 13, 2006

Election Form

VOTE FOR FOUR (4) CANDIDATES

Harry Dieter ( ) **Steve Teuscher ( )**
Alan White ( ) **Frank Winkler ( )**
Write-in candidate _____ **( )** _____ **( )**

Name(s) _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Chapter / Affiliation _____

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

New York Forest Owners Association

44th Annual Spring Program

The New York Forest Owners Association is holding its annual membership meeting in conjunction with the three day New York Farm Show **February 23-25, 2006** at the NY Fairgrounds in Syracuse. The Farm Show exhibits include equipment used by woodlot owners—chainsaws, woodsplitters, and wood harvesters in addition to equipment used by agricultural producers.

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

NYFOA, DEC, CCE, and SUNY ESF will operate the forestry information booth 8:30 am - 4:00 pm February 23, 24, and 25 in the *International Building*. All workshop presentations will take place in the *DEC Log Cabin*.

The **NYFOA annual meeting will be held on the third day of the Farm Show, Saturday February 25, 2006** in the Martha Eddy Room, Arts and Home Building at 1:00 pm. All members are encouraged to attend the Farm Show prior to the NYFOA annual meeting — The 10:00 am and 11:00 am Saturday seminar presentations were developed for the benefit of NYFOA members.

Schedule of Events

Workshops

February 23	1:00 pm	Invasive Plants, Why Should I Care?
	2:00 pm	The Forest Tent Caterpillar Outbreak and What You Can Do About It
	3:00 pm	Timber Theft: an Epidemic
February 24	10:00 am	Best Practices for Sugarbush Management
	11:00 am	Timber Sales: Top Ten Myths
	1:00 pm	Thinning your Woodlot for Timber and Wildlife
	2:00 pm	Wild Edible Plants and Mushrooms
	3:00 pm	Wild Turkey Management on Your Property
February 25	10:00 am	Real Property Tax Law Applied to Timber
	11:00 am	Managing New York's Forests for Wildlife
	1:00 pm	How Much is Your Timber Worth: The Market, Present and Future

NYFOA Annual Meeting

February 25	8:30 am	Register and refreshments - Martha Eddy Room, Arts and Home Building. Tour the Farm Show. Check out our Forestry Booth (I55), International Building.
	10:00 am	Seminars - DEC Log Cabin (See schedule above).
	12:00 noon	Dutch Treat Lunch.
	1:00 pm	Awards Presentation and Annual Membership Meeting, Martha Eddy Room, Arts and Home Building. See more of the Farm Show.

Notes

- There is no registration fee for the meeting.
- Free admission tickets to the New York Farm Show will be mailed to each NYFOA member.
- Free chainsaw raffle will be held.
- The nature of this program requires activities to be held in three buildings. Therefore it is essential for all members to register at the Arts and Home Building upon arrival Saturday February 25 for program information and to return promptly at 1:00 pm for the awards presentation and the annual membership meeting.

Directions

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

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

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

Federal Report:
Increased Timber Yields, Better Forest Health Possible Through Changes in Forestry Practices

A federal report released October 11, 2005 concluded that changes to common wood harvesting practices could substantially increase timber yields over time while better maintaining the health and quality of northeastern forests.

USDA Forest Service Researcher Laura Kenefic and State University of New York Distinguished Professor Ralph Nyland evaluated diameter-limit cutting and silviculture for managing forests of the region. They found that silvicultural treatments such as selection cutting in forests having trees of several ages growing together, or thinning in forests having trees of similar age, increased the long-term yield compared to diameter-limit cutting. In both cases, revenue to the landowner also improved.

Diameter-limit cutting is a common harvesting practice that selects trees to cut solely on the diameter size of their trunks. In this practice a landowner might decide to cut down all of the trees larger than 12 or 16 inches, or use some other convenient threshold size. All of the smaller trees would remain standing, regardless of their general health, species or commercial value. Diameter-limit cutting usually does not include consideration of the amount of timber left nor keep future timber growth at an optimum level. It typically removes the most harvestable timber in the first cut, and that provides a landowner with short-term revenue. However, repeated diameter limit cutting results in decreasing timber yields and declining timber quality over time, resulting in a forest with a reduced economic value.

"Diameter-limit cutting has a long history of practice," said Kenefic. "European settlers began in the 1600s and 1700s by cutting the largest trees, such as white pine for masts in England. Over time, smaller and smaller trees were cut as larger size classes became unavailable. Most of our northeastern forests have been cut over, and contain much smaller trees than they did in pre-settlement times. Diameter-limit cutting continues to be popular throughout the U.S. and Canada, and there is debate about the long-term effects." Prior to the publication of Nyland and Kenefic's recent report, few data existed to counter the belief that diameter-limit removals are benign.

Picture someone deciding to cut all the largest and best trees from a forest every few years, leaving only small and the poor-quality stems. Most people would expect the smaller trees to eventually grow to large sizes, similar to the big ones just cut down. That does not usually happen, particularly in forests where all the trees are about the same age. In those forests the trees remaining grow slowly, but eventually do get bigger. However, it takes many decades for them to grow as large as the ones taken out during diameter-limit cutting. And after a second and third diameter-limit cut the forest may have too few merchantable trees to economically harvest.

Diameter-limit cutting removes the largest, best trees in order to maximize revenues in the short-term. Unfortunately, the quality and vigor of the trees remaining after harvest rarely match that of the trees removed," said Kenefic.

Diameter-limit cutting has a somewhat different effect in forests where trees of different ages grow together. In those cases it removes the older trees, leaving only young ones of small diameters. It does not usually leave enough trees to maintain optimum levels of timber growth, nor improve the spacing among

trees that remain. In addition, diameter-limit cutting does not cut the poor trees that interfere with growth of better ones. Crowding among the remaining trees slows their growth, and timber yields decrease.

That is happening throughout the forests where landowners practice repeated diameter-limit cutting. Bit by bit, it has left forests in the Northeast U.S. with smaller and less marketable trees, said Nyland. "But just adopting well-established forestry practices like thinning and selection cutting would maintain the forest in a more desirable condition, and help to keep timber production at a sustainable level," he added.

Kenefic and Nyland are silviculturists, people who study ways to tend and regenerate forests and practice sustainable forestry. They say that at first glance, diameter-limit cutting seems like an economically attractive practice for landowners. But computer simulation of forests having trees of similar ages showed after about 100 years the periodic thinning yields would be about 1.4 times greater, and provide twice as much revenue to a landowner. In forests with trees of different ages growing together, the yield for a century-long period of management by selection system cutting would be about 120 percent of the volume and value realized from diameter-limit cutting.

An experiment by Kenefic and others on the Penobscot Experimental Forest in Maine showed similar results. Areas treated by repeated selection system cutting over a 40-year period had only one percent of the volume in unmerchantable trees, while areas given diameter-limit cutting had 25 percent. The first diameter-limit cut took out more volume than the harvesters removed with selection cutting. However, after three cuts the selection system areas had six times more volume growing in the forest. Further, too few merchantable trees remained in the diameter-limit areas to support another harvest in the foreseeable future.

Instead of using diameter-limit cutting, Kenefic and Nyland recommend that landowners who want to sustain the long-term value of their forests should capitalize on the advantages of silviculture. Rather than just cutting down all of the biggest trees with each harvest, they should look for opportunities to tend the forest by removing some of the smaller, inferior trees to reduce competition for space, sunlight, water and nutrients. They should also leave sufficient numbers of well-spaced immature trees to optimize the growth capacity of the land. And they should take deliberate steps to regenerate new trees when removing mature ones from a forest. "These silvicultural practices will keep forests healthy and productive, and sustain their values into the future," Kenefic said.

Their findings have special significance in the Northeast U.S., one of the most forested areas of the country and an area in which the vast majority of forests are privately owned. Their work shows that private landowners can use appropriate silviculture to maintain the optimal forest growth and health while also generating revenues to help pay for land taxes and other costs of owning and managing forests. Those practices will also insure that diverse and economically productive forests can be sustained indefinitely.

The USDA Forest Service complete report, "Diameter Limit Cutting and Silviculture in Northeastern Forest: A Primer for Landowners, Practitioners and Policymakers," published August 2005, is available on the Web in PDF format at: http://www.fs.fed.us/na/durham/ima/news/2005/diameter.pdf.

Wood Defects Caused by Cambium Miners

DOUGLAS C. ALLEN

The value of many eastern hard woods, especially sugar maple and black cherry, has increased dramatically during the past decade or so. Because quality wood from these trees has many relatively high value uses, any discoloration or damage that alters the color or figure of the wood grain is considered a defect in plain sliced and rotary-cut veneer. Additionally, when these defects are numerous, affected lumber may not be acceptable for use as face-grade material.

A group of very small flies called "cambium miners" is responsible for a common defect that goes by many names; worm tracks, pith-ray flecks, pith flecks, medullary spots, brown streak and, in black cherry, gum spots. In the European market, the terms "glassworm" and "glass track" are used to describe these markings. Infestations are especially common in black cherry, maple, birch, and ash. The insects involved are species of *Phytobia* (fye-toe-bee-ah), a genus in the family Agromyzidae. The flies are known collectively as agromyzids.

A tree's Cambium is a very narrow zone of cells that gives rise, through cell division, to the living tissues which comprise wood and inner bark (Fig. 1). The term "cambium miner" is a misnomer because, even though agromyzid larvae do in fact destroy this tissue as they feed, they actually burrow in or "mine" the inner bark. The latter, a multi-cellular tissue called phloem (flow-um), is rich in nutrients, because it functions as a pipeline through which the products of photosynthesis travel from foliage down the tree bole (Fig. 1, phloem).

Adult cambium miners are small flies (approximately 0.1 to 0.2" long) that are rarely seen. They are grey to black with fragile, transparent wings. The fully grown immature or larva is distinctly worm- or maggot-like and 0.75 to 1.25" long but only 0.04" (=1 mm) in diameter. It has a pointed "head" and its mouthparts have been reduced to a pair of black, toothed mouth-hooks.

The annual life cycle begins in the spring when a fly emerges from the ground where it has overwintered and deposits eggs singly on branches. When an egg hatches, the emerging larva bores through the thin branch bark and mines down the branch toward the tree bole. At this stage, the hair-like mines and larvae are very difficult to detect. As a larva grows and moves down the tree bole, however, it establishes a well defined straight or slightly sinuous gallery in the inner bark and leaves a trace or etching of this damage in the developing growth ring. When the larva is fully grown it vacates the tree and overwinters in the ground.

Damage results when the gallery becomes large enough to etch and

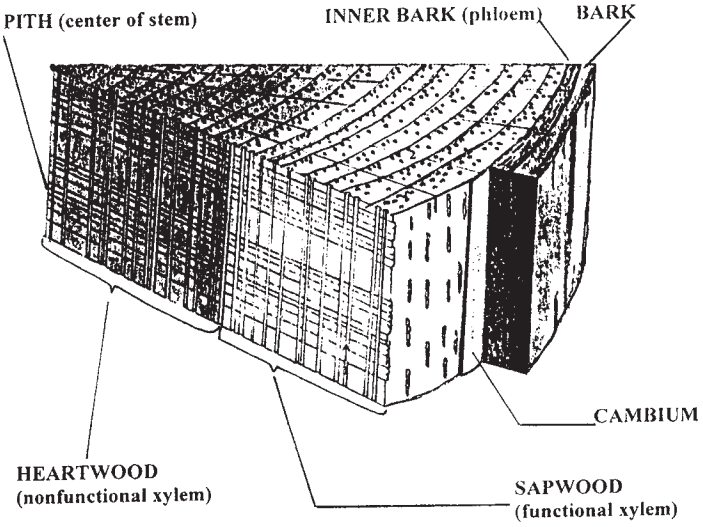


Figure 1. Diagrammatic representation of the major tissues that make up a tree bole as they appear in tangential and cross-sectional views (redrawn from A.L. Shigo, USDA FS NE-INF-16-73).

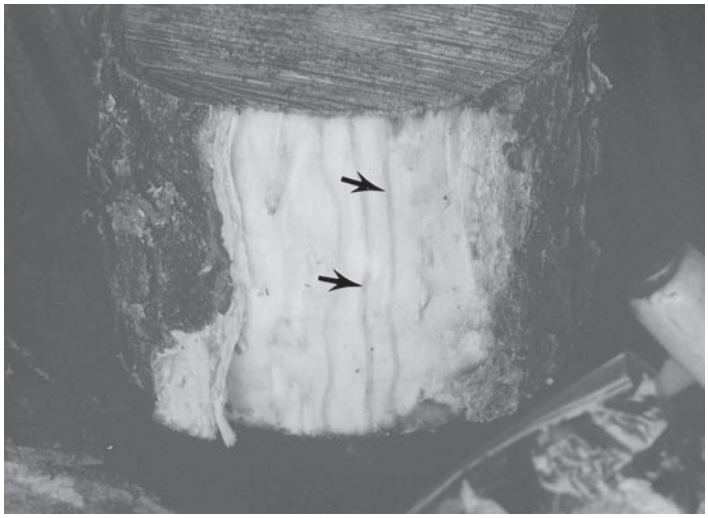


Figure 2. This is a section of black cherry showing defects caused by Phytobia on the surface of the sapwood (arrows).

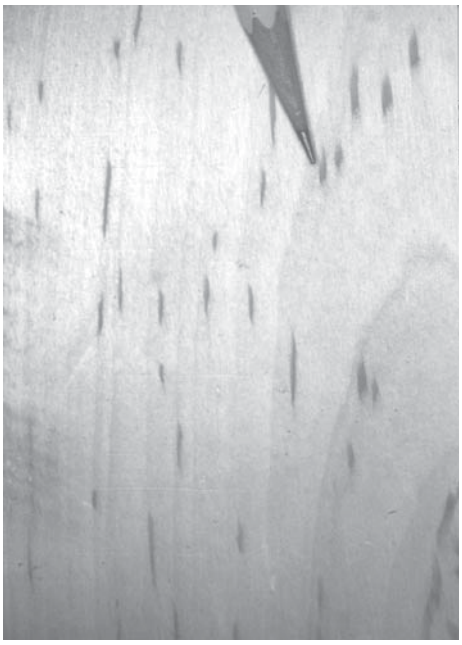


Figure 3. Note the pith flecks in this white birch board (tangential view) caused by Phytobia mines.

stain the surface of the current year's growth ring (sapwood) (Fig. 2) that is forming immediately inside the cambium (Fig. 1, xylem). Eventually, new cells fill the damaged area of the growth ring. This wound response disrupts the normal pattern and color of the wood grain in processed veneer and lumber (Figs. 3, 4). Discoloration occurs because the cells that are formed in response to this damage are thicker and more heavily lignified than cells that normally comprise the sapwood. A defect results when the developing current-year layer of xylem or sapwood (= growth ring) continues to develop and, in doing so, encompasses the mine (Fig. 5). Galleries typically are several feet long and may even extend below ground along a root.

Preventing damage caused by cambium miners would be very difficult and costly. To begin with, it is impossible to detect the presence of agromyzids unless one peels the bark from a currently infested tree. There are no external symptoms – for all intents and purposes an infested tree looks very normal. Anecdotal evidence suggests cambium miners are more abundant on some sites than others, so it may be very rare in one area of a forest but abundant elsewhere. These susceptible conditions have yet to be described.

This is the 83rd in the series of articles contributed by Dr. Allen, Professor of Entomology at SUNY-ESF. It is possible to download this collection from the NYS DEC Web page at:http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dlf/privland/forprot/health/nyfo/index.html.

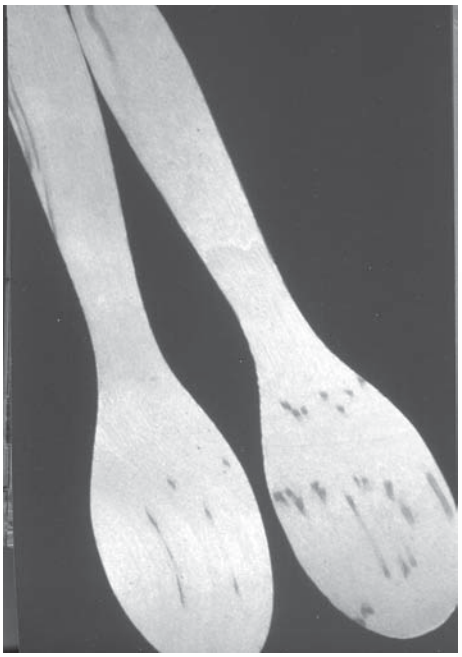


Figure 4. Pith flecks caused by a cambium miner as the damage appears in wooden spoons made from birch veneer.

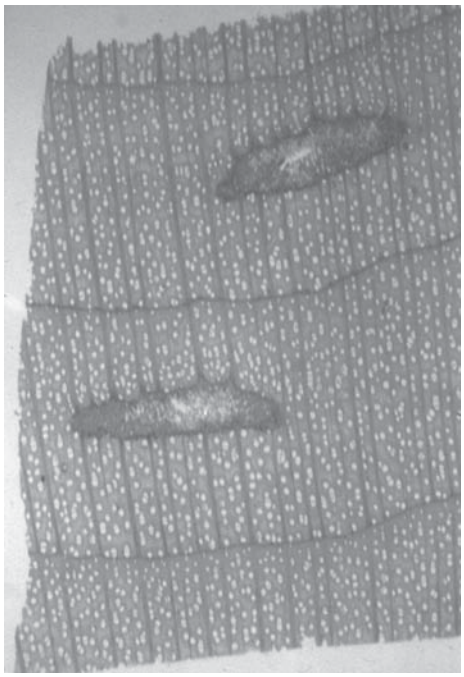


Figure 5. This is a cross-section of two growth rings from a white birch that was infested with cambium miners for two consecutive years. The dark, oval-shaped marks are "pith flecks" that have been encircled by each year's layer of sapwood (growth ring).

Maple Sugaring: A Unique Tradition

SHAVONNE SARGENT

Today the sun shone out among puffs of clouds in a bright blue sky; the temperature was above freezing and the work of the sun caused the snow and ice to melt into pools of muddied water along walkways. Patches of green showed through the snow. The air smelled of spring, and the wind no longer bit at exposed skin. Soon buckets and tubes will appear on trees and plumes of smoke and steam will be seen rising from the cupolas of sugarhouses that dot the New York landscape. It is that season again to begin the time-honored tradition of the production of maple syrup.

The ability to produce maple syrup is unique to the Northeastern United States and Southeastern Canada, due to the presence of the desired species (Sugar maple, *Acer saccharum*) and the appropriate seasonal temperature fluctuations (freezing nights and warm days). In other words, maple syrup cannot be made any other place in the world!

Maple syrup has been produced in the United States and Canada for hundreds of years. Native Americans made maple syrup long before Europeans arrived, but it is debatable how the process was discovered and how long it had been made in Native American culture. Europeans arriving in the United States learned the "secret" of maple sugaring from the Native Americans. What has been passed down since then is a rich heritage of culture and industry often carried out by families, shared by friends, and inspiring beginners every year.

Maple syrup isn't made from just any tree. There are a few members of the maple family that are acceptable for maple syrup production; sugar maple, black maple, and red maple. The best of these is the sugar maple, almost indistinguishable from black maple, because it produces sap with the highest sugar content, longer into the spring. Other options are secondary, as they have the disadvantage of lower sugar content (which translates into more sap per gallon of syrup and thus a longer boiling time) and undesirable off-flavors may develop earlier in the season as a result of spring budding.

In order to make syrup, you must extract sap from the tree. To do this, a small hole is drilled in the tree with a 7/16" or 5/16" drill bit (depending on tap size). A metal or plastic spout is inserted and a bucket or tubing is hung from the tap. When nights are below freezing, negative pressure in the tree draws a higher volume of sap into the tree. If a freezing night is followed by a day with above-freezing temperatures, warming of the sap in the tree increases pressure up to 40 pounds per square inch (psi). If the tree is wounded or tapped, a clear and somewhat sugary substance called sap will flow from the tree.

Many people ask if tapping sugar maples and taking their sap is harmful to them. To answer this question it is useful to provide an analogy: it is like humans donating blood. A small hole is made and some of the life source is extracted, but not enough to hurt the individual. When done at the proper time to those of the appropriate size and good health, the effects are not damaging. After the donation, the hole is not treated or plugged, it will heal over itself. Tapped trees may grow a bit slower, but not to the point of ill-health. Some trees have been tapped for many decades.

Sap is collected by hand or through tubes and brought to the sugarhouse. The sap is then boiled over a fire in an evaporator. Beginning producers often begin with boiling in an old pan on top of a wood stove. Systems of boiling have improved in efficiency throughout time, from one-pot over a fire to gas fired flue-pan evaporators equipped to preheat sap. Producers today use a varied number of these systems, depending on the size of the operation. As sap is boiled, water escapes as steam and the sugar density of the sap increases. Chemical changes resulting from the heating cause the liquid to darken. Sap is boiled until it reaches the appropriate sugar density, and is drawn off in completed or near completed form. This is the brown, sweet, thickened liquid we know as maple syrup; but as you now know, we can only enjoy this delightful treat after a lot of hard work!

For more information on maple sugaring, read the *North American Maple Syrup Producers Manual*, or the visit New York State Maple Producer's Association and Cornell Sugar Maple Research and Extension Program website at: http://maple.dnr.cornell.edu

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. Additional articles on a range of topics are available through your local office of Cornell University Cooperative Extension or at www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/forestrypage*

Ice Accident Reminds Pond Owners of Winter Dangers

JIM OCHTERSKI

Just after Thanksgiving Day 2005, a Wisconsin boy drowned when his ATV broke through thin, snow-covered ice covering a local farm pond. He was returning from his neighbor's property and apparently did not remember where the pond was located.

New York pond owners should place fencing and signs around all ponds to prevent unsupervised use. The fencing should be safe, unobstructed, and placed far enough back from the pond edge to allow access and maintenance. Normally, fences are located at the base of the dike and six to ten feet away from other pond edges. In the winter, these also fences make it clear where snow-covered ponds are located to avoid drowning as ATVs and snowmobiles may break through the ice unexpectedly.

If you plan to use your pond for ice-skating, establish a strict standard for safe skating. It is difficult to determine ice thickness from the shore or even standing on the pond surface. Ice can melt from both the top and from the bottom. Test holes are necessary to accurately measure ice thickness. Use a chisel, drill, or ice auger to check the ice. Pond ice should be clear and thick – at least 4" to support one adult with no equipment.

To form safe ice, the weather must be calm with an air temperature consistently below 25° F. Ice is normally near its melting point, so temperatures above 25° F do not create safe ice. Deep water freezes much more slowly than shallow water and spring-fed ponds are likely to freeze very slowly as warmer water is constantly flowing into the pond from the spring.

After ice has formed, new snow should be removed as soon as possible, otherwise, the surface may become coated with weaker "snow ice." This cloudy ice is formed when wet snow falls on top of cold ice. Snow ice tends to be weak and melts easily.

Removing snow from ice can pose a hazard if done improperly. Wherever snow is piled on the ice, it acts as an insulating blanket and will soften some of the ice underneath, making the pile very difficult to move. Always clear a larger area off the ice than you think you will need. Subsequent snow removals will not go as far as the first few. Spread snow piles out, so the weight does not buckle one part of the pond ice.

Cracks on frozen ponds are normal as temperatures change and the ice settles. However, cracks can become a hazard to skaters. Small cracks can be resurfaced with a bucket of water spread evenly when temperatures are near or below 20° F to ensure a smooth surface.

One of the most dangerous conditions around ponds in the winter is ice is separated from the shore. The separated ice is very likely to be too weak for human activity. Salt runoff, algae content, silt, and other impurities can weaken ice. Monitor water quality during the summer to assure good ice during the winter.

Ice becomes weaker with more activity scouring the surface. Hockey, ice fishing, and paired skating place more weight on a particular portion of a pond ice surface. The ice sheet must be thick enough to accommodate these group activities. Motorized vehicles, like ATV's, snowmobiles, snow blowers, and garden tractors place great stress on ice surfaces and can unexpectedly fatigue the surface. They must be supported by at least 6 inches of hard ice.

Avoid ever being on pond ice alone or at night. Mishaps happen quickly, especially for young children who may not be aware of ice dangers and are least able to rescue themselves. Signs and fences should be used to warn children and solo adults from standing on frozen ponds. Keep a lightweight ladder attached to a rope near frozen ponds as a rescue device. If you fall through the ice, call for help loudly and constantly. If possible, move to a stable ice area and roll onto the surface, wet clothes and all. Seek emergency medical assistance immediately.

Please contact Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County for an information sheet about ponds and ice safety at (607) 535-7161.

Jim Ochterski is a NYFOA member in the Southern Finger Lakes Chapter and is the Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources Educator for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County

New Business Plays Matchmaker to Landowners, Sportsmen

Hunting Lease Network™: "Bringing Landowners and Sportsmen Together"

A new locally-owned business, Hunting Lease Network, (www.nationalhuntingleases.com), has opened in the Phelps, N.Y., area, and will serve all of western New York state. The goal of the company is to help landowners and hunters connect online to establish leases for exclusive hunting rights to the land.

Tom Dziekan has purchased the Hunting Lease Network franchise serving western New York and is now part of the first hunting lease network franchise in the world. The Hunting Lease Network offers complete recreational lease management services to landowners seeking additional income from their land and hunters longing for assurance of a quality experience.

"Our purpose is to make hunting leases hassle-free for the landowner and the hunter, so that they can both enjoy the benefits of the arrangement, and the peace of mind that we're handling all the details," said Dziekan.

Strong business skills and a passion for hunting and the outdoors drew Dziekan to open a Hunting Lease Network business. "I grew up hunting and fishing in western New York, and I know from my own experience that it can be hard to access and keep good hunting ground," said Dziekan. "My Hunting Lease Network business will help other sportsmen in the area secure excellent hunting ground."

Dziekan, who has a background in sales, learned about the franchise opportunity with Hunting Lease Network when he was searching the web for new hunting ground and came upon the Hunting Lease Network web site. In addition to hunting lease opportunities, he noticed they had franchises available.

Tom Dziekan is pictured on a November 2005 pheasant hunt that he went on in Nebraska during his training as a new HLN business owner.

"The Hunting Lease Network has one of the best web sites out there for hunting leases, and I especially liked the bidding aspect of their system—that it's not just first-come, first-serve," said Dziekan. "When I saw the franchise opportunity available in my area, it was a perfect way for me to combine my sales experience and love of hunting and the outdoors."

To use Dziekan's Hunting Lease Network service, landowners pay a $100 enrollment fee, which covers the time and effort for the company to build a web page for each landowner's property and to coordinate lease bids from sportsmen registered on the web site. The landowner's web page is located on the Hunting Lease Network's web site—generating nationwide bidding exposure for the landowner's posting. This competitive bidding process ensures landowners receive fair

market value for the recreational lease.

"We handle the lease writing, accounting, wildlife harvest reports, hunting liability insurance carried by hunters, and lease renewals," said Dziekan. "Basically, we serve as the liaison between the landowner and the hunter for the life of the lease."

Because the franchise system is a subsidiary of Farmers National Company, the largest farm management company in the United States (www.farmersnational.com), franchise owners also can draw upon the resources of Farmers National Company to provide landowners with related additional services such as wildlife habitat development.

Dziekan is now an entrepreneur in an industry that shows no signs of weakening. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation, more than $624 million is spent annually on hunting leases in the United States.

The Hunting Lease Network's corporate-owned franchises already have opened more than 210,000 acres of private land to hunting since they began managing hunting leases in 1995. The company plans to continue awarding 15 franchises per year for the next six years throughout the United States. Based on growing interests in other outdoor sports, the Hunting Lease Network also plans to ultimately expand its services to include fishing and eco-tourism leases as well.

Hunting Lease Network's plans for expansion are in response to growing demand from landowners and sportsmen alike for full-service hunting lease management. "We help landowners get more income from their property, and give them the peace of mind that we're looking out for them. And we're helping hunters and other sportsmen save time looking for quality, affordable locations where they can have a positive experience," said Dziekan. "It's really a win-win arrangement."

For more information about the Hunting Lease Network office serving western New York, to post land available for recreational use, or to view available leases, visit www.nationalhuntingleases.com or contact Tom Dziekan at (315) 789-7809 or by email at sportsmenslease ventures@direcway.com.

For more information about Hunting Lease Network franchise opportunities nationwide, visit www.nationalhuntingleases.com or contact Troy Langan at (402) 496-3276 or by email at tlangan@ farmersnational.com.

Editors Note: Tom Dziekan's Hunting Lease Network business will serve landowners and sportsmen in Western NY. The HLN home office plans on establishing other franchise offices in New York, and until then the home office will facilitate leases in other NY areas besides western NY.

Know Your Trees

Black Willow

(*Salix nigra* Marshall)

Black Willow is the largest and most widely distributed of the native willows, although it is rare above an altitude of 2,000 feet in the Adirondacks and in the pine barrens of Long Island. It prefers moist or wet soils along streams or lakes but will sometimes be found on fresh, gravelly or sandy soils where it can get plenty of light. It is of little importance as a timber tree as it often divides into several crooked, medium-sized trunks close to the ground and the wood is soft and weak. It is used chiefly for boxes, excelsior, pulp, and also for artificial limbs because of its lightness.

Bark—thick, rough with wide ridges covered by thick scales, varies in color from light to dark brown.

Twigs—slender, smooth, somewhat drooping, very brittle at the base, reddish brown in color; falling to the ground they make take root and grow.

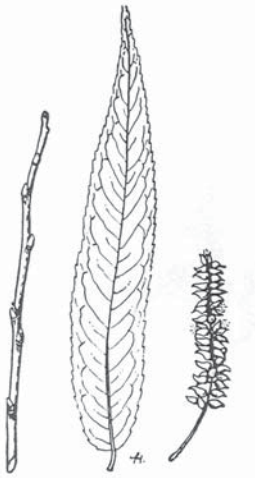
Winter buds—terminal bud absent, lateral buds small, sharp-pointed, reddish brown in color; only one bud scale.

Leaves—alternate, simple, linear, sharp-pointed, finely serrate margin, dark green in color above, pale green below.

Fruit—a smooth capsule, about 1/8 inch long, occurring in large numbers on drooping tassels, ripening in the spring, reddish brown in color.

Seeds—within capsule, covered with a dense tuft of long, silky hairs.

Outstanding features—narrow leaves; small buds with one bud scale.



BLACK WILLOW
Twig, leaf, and fruit, two-thirds natural size

The *shining willow* is an attractive small tree of moist soils, used extensively for holding soil in place where erosion is to be feared and also for ornamental plantings. Its shiny, broad leaves and yellowish brown twigs will help to distinguish it from the *black willow*.

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

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

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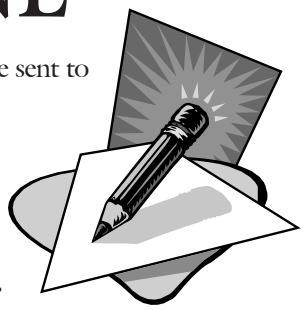
Materials submitted for the March/Issue issue should be sent to Mary Beth Malmsheimer, Editor, *The New York Forest Owner*, 134 Lincklaen Street, Cazenovia, NY 13035, (315) 655-4110 or via e-mail at mmalmshe @syr.edu Articles, artwork and photos are invited and if requested, are returned after use.

Deadline for material is February 1, 2006.



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