

The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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Member Profile: Bob & Dave Preston

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**The New York
Forest Owner**

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 44, NUMBER 5

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Please address all membership fees and change of address requests to P.O. Box 541, Lima, N.Y. 14485. 1-800-836-3566. Cost of family membership/subscription is \$35.

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www.nyfoa.org

COVER: Photo from 1994 shows Bob Preston in the woods with wife Julie, two granddaughters & Son-in-law. Notice the strong hardwood growth. Photo courtesy of Bob Preston.

From The Executive Director

In the last edition of *The Forest Owner*, I talked about new grant funds that were going to be made available to New York State's private forest landowners through the USDA Forest Service (USFS) Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP). NYFOA's partner in the FLEP initiative, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), has recently dedicated about \$46,000 of these FLEP funds to support cultural work to address the Sirex Woodwasp concern in the central and western portions of the state.

Financial assistance will be available to forest owners in a 29-county region to enhance growing conditions in eligible



pine stands including the development of a cutting prescription by a professional forester as well as cutting work completed on a non-

commercial basis. All work must be done in accordance with a Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan and be approved for financial assistance before work is started. Forest Stewardship Plans can be prepared by a DEC Service Forester or landowners may use FLEP financial assistance to cover a portion of the costs associated with private sector professional services to develop such a management plan. For more information on the Sirex Woodwasp see page 12.

On a more cheerful note for the state's private forest landowners, I had the opportunity to attend a meeting in August in Geneva, New York, with leaders of a number of New York State organizations with a common interest in making

America's energy future more secure, affordable, and environmentally sustainable. Through a recently formed national group called the 25x'25 Alliance, people are working together to advance renewable energy solutions from farms, ranches, and working forests. The vision of the 25x'25 Alliance is that by 2025, renewable energy from America's farms, forests, and ranches will provide 25% of the total energy consumed in the United States, while continuing to produce safe, abundant, and affordable food, feed, and fiber. 25x'25 is supported by the Energy

Please share this magazine with a neighbor and urge them to join NYFOA. By gaining more members, NYFOA's voice will become stronger!

Future Coalition and is led by a committee composed of volunteer leaders from the agricultural, forestry, and renewable energy communities.

New York Governor Pataki is one of 14 US governors who has already pledged his support for the 25x'25 Alliance's bold energy vision. In New York State, the plan is to build on this support while also raising the awareness of the general public and elected officials as to the importance of reducing our dependence on non-renewable and foreign energy sources. Clearly, this is an excellent opportunity for New York's

continued on page 4

The mission of the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) is to promote sustainable forestry practices and improved stewardship on privately owned woodlands in New York State. NYFOA is a not-for-profit group of landowners and others interested in the thoughtful management of private forests for the benefit of current and future generations.

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 statewide meetings.

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From the Executive Director (continued)

private forest owners as new markets for low value wood are likely to emerge in response to the initiative. You can learn more about 25x'25 on-line at www.25x25.org.

NYFOA sponsored a high school science teacher from the eastern part of the state to attend an intensive three-day teachers' course and tour focused on sustainable forest management that took place in the Lake Placid area in early August. The teachers program is put on by the Temperate Forest Foundation with support in New York State by the Empire State Forest Products Association. About 40 teachers from all over the US participate in the course including ten teachers from New York State. In addition to sponsoring a local teacher, NYFOA also furnished copies of the July/August edition of *The Forest Owner* to all participants. The Temperate Forest Foundation is committed to educating the public about sustainable forest resources and their effect on people and quality of life. The Foundation feels that the most effective way to do that is to educate the teachers who will be teaching future generations of citizens, voters, and policy makers to make informed decisions about sustainable forestry issues.

NYFOA's quest to expand its membership has taken shape this summer thanks to the leadership from a number of the Association's chapters. Chapter volunteers made presentations about the benefits of NYFOA membership to Master Forest Owners at refresher courses that took place in July in several locations across the state. Other volunteers set up displays and staffed forestry information booths at a number of local and regional fairs; and at state-wide special events such as Empire Farm Days held in August in Seneca Falls, which was attended by over 75,000 people.

Our long-awaited new membership brochure is now at the printers. Plans are to begin to distribute this through a variety of channels in the early fall. If you would like a supply of these brochures to share with your friends and neighbors, please contact the Association office. Our current membership is at about 2,000 individuals and families. With more members, NYFOA will have a stronger voice in policy issues and other matters; and we'll be able to offer more services to all of our members. Please help with recruiting new members! 🌲

—Mary Jeanne Packer
Executive Director

Empire Farm Days in Seneca Falls



Dale Schaefer (right), past president of Western Finger Lakes Chapter talks with a forest owner about the benefits of NYFOA membership at the chapter's table in the Cornell Building at Empire Farm Days in Seneca Falls. Over the three days of the event, Dale and other NYFOA volunteers spoke with hundreds of people about managing New York's privately-owned forests. At left, a forest owner picking up informational materials on the Master Forest Owner program. Many of the forest owners who visited the NYFOA table were interested in learning more about their woods and how they could better care for the resources. Over 600 exhibitors representing a huge variety of technologies, products and services related to agriculture and forestry exhibited at Empire Farm Days. Photo by MJ Packer.

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Would you like to receive updates via email on emerging forestry issues and opportunities for forest owners? If so, please make sure we have your current email address. Contact Liana in the NYFOA office: lgooding@nyfoa.org

HOW TO:

Prepare Sites for Planting

MAC PRINCE

Some of the most important money you spend during the rotation of a tree crop is in site preparation—whether you spend it on fire during the last several years of the previous rotation to make sure a clean harvest can be accomplished, or on equipment or chemicals to clean up the site postharvest. Despite new high-intensity technologies in forest stand management, site preparation is the key to having a productive stand of trees.

How do you accomplish good site preparation? If you have not yet harvested your timber, now is the time to begin planning for site preparation and regeneration of the next stand. Good, clean stand management over the last six to nine years of a rotation will allow you to use a lower cost and more successful site preparation alternative for the next stand. Whether you use fire or chemicals to suppress the understory vegetation, a clean site, postharvest, will benefit you, the landowner.

There are two classes of site preparation: mechanical and chemical. Mechanical site preparation uses heavy equipment to physically remove material that is impeding planting and growth of the chosen crop. Chemical site preparation suppresses the growth of competing vegetation and (usually) uses fire to remove vegetative residues to prepare for planting.

Mechanical Site Preparation

The most common type of mechanical site preparation is shear and pile. In this method, a tractor is used to cut down the residual stand, using a shear blade or K-G blade. Following the shearing operation, a tractor using a root rake moves the residue into piles or windrows. This technique is most useful if a high percentage of the residual stand is stems that are more than 6 inches in diameter. If the land is somewhat sloping, windrows

should be placed along the contour to help control erosion that can result from areas of exposed soil. The piles or windrows may be burned or left for erosion control and wildlife cover. If this method is used, do not use a regular bulldozer blade for piling because too much soil will be moved into the piles.

This mechanical method has some very significant benefits. For example, the site will be clean enough to use a machine planter, which usually leads to a higher survival rate than hand planting.

This method also has a larger window of opportunity for use than some other types, which may be limited to use in the late summer or early fall.

On the negative side, however, this method is the most expensive, at \$150-\$190 per acre. In addition, this method does not suppress resprouts, and competition may be a problem for the new stand.

Another mechanical site preparation type that has fallen somewhat out of favor is drum chopping. This method requires a tractor to pull a drum chopper over the residual stand, chopping it up and reducing it to a burnable mass. It is more practical on somewhat steeper land than shearing because of reduced exposed soil area. To use this type of site preparation, most of the residual stand should be smaller than 3 inches in diameter.

Although drum chopping is less expensive than shearing and piling, it should be used in conjunction with fire for best results. This method also has a larger window of use than some others and can be successful if used in the correct situation. Some foresters shy away from this technique because it seems to encourage resprouting. Drum chopping used with a suppressant chemical can be a good strategy where there are more stems than can be planted through.

The last mechanical type is wildland disking. Disking is a good method if the terrain will allow large areas of exposed soil without eroding. It is very effective at suppressing resprouting because of the multiple cutting of the stems. It works best where most of the stand is smaller than 2 inches in diameter. It is usually the least expensive mechanical method, as well as the most restrictive in its use.

Chemical Site Preparation

The use of chemicals to kill or suppress competition is not new, and it is the method of choice for many site preparation situations. There are two main reasons for this popularity: Chemicals tend to result in a longer competition-free time than mechanical processes, and chemicals are usually less expensive than mechanical methods.

Chemical site preparation tends to be more effective when it is used in conjunction with fire. Fire also helps to remove excess vegetation that may hinder planting, whether by machine or hand.

For chemical site preparation to be most effective, it must be timed correctly for both the chemical used and the species being suppressed. To get the best results, you should engage the services of a professional who is familiar with chemical preparation. 🌲

This article, originally titled "Site Preparation: The Key to a Successful Crop," first appeared in the Fall 2003 issue of Alabama's *Treasured Forests*, a publication of the Alabama Forestry Commission. Prince is a management specialist with the Alabama Forestry Commission.

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



Ask A Professional

PETER SMALLIDGE



Peter Smallidge

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

Question:

With all the rain that has fallen in my area this year, what steps should I take to protect water quality during a harvest I hope to have later this year?

Answer:

The extra rain this summer in much of New York heightens the need for water quality best management practices, or BMPs. Even during a dry summer, we can't ignore best management practices. The people and communities downstream from you will agree that water is one of the most important products your forest produces.

Let me first start with some background information on forests and water. Forests provide the best water filter of any land use. That said, however, the cutting of a tree does not in itself cause erosion of soils. Rather, it is disturbance to soil that creates the potential for erosion. If soils are left exposed and unstable they can erode and cause water quality problems. Soil erosion also results in the loss of soil fertility and water holding capacity, both of which negatively affect forest productivity. BMPs are designed to avoid, control and slow water movement during forestry practices to minimize erosion.

Because most forest land disturbance happens during a harvest, it might help some forest owners to think about BMPs as they would occur sequentially during the harvest. Specifically, think about BMPs before harvest, during harvest, and after harvest. The details

of a sequential approach to BMPs are available at www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/bmp. To assist you with BMPs for forestry activities, don't hesitate to contact your local office of the NYS DEC or discuss options with the forester who is supervising the harvest.



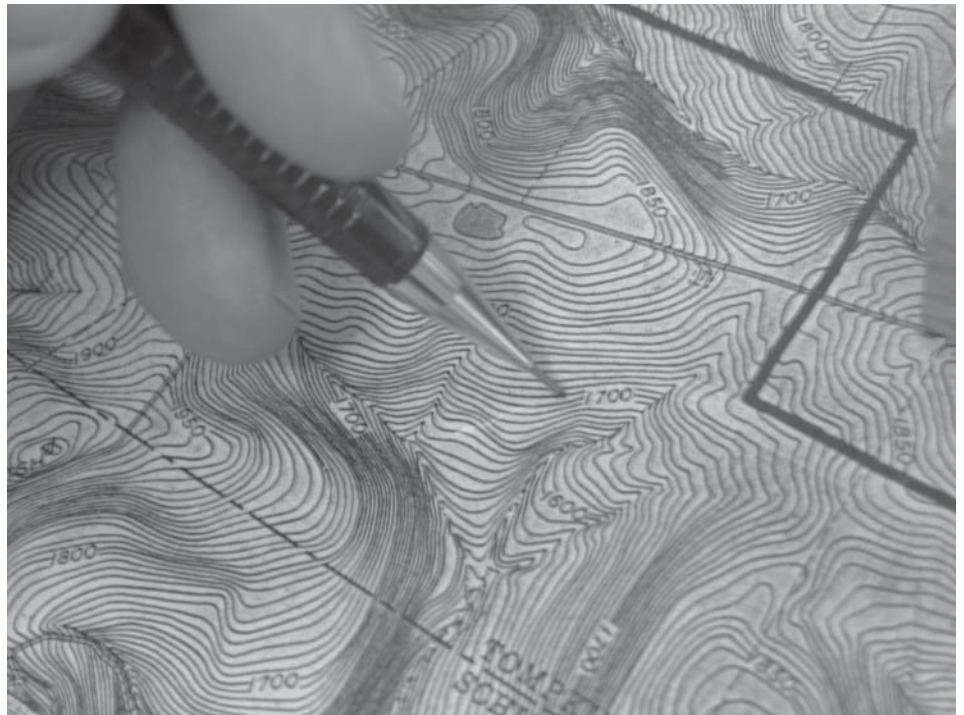
An open top culvert is an example of a water control structure that is used after the harvest. The open top culvert allows for regular vehicle access on the road, but requires periodic cleaning to ensure the pipe remains open. Open top culverts also can be constructed as a box, from rot resistant wood.

Please note that at any one property, or during any one harvest, not all BMPs will be used.

Before a harvest, the activities that help protect water quality depend upon getting information and then making use of it. The tools for gathering information start with a pre-harvest checklist and include reviewing your forest management plan, reviewing drainage patterns on a topographic map and soil survey map, and including appropriate BMP clauses in the timber sale contract. Prior to harvest, it will be helpful to identify control points, or areas of special concern that require added attention or avoidance during the actual harvest. Examples of control points include stream crossings, abrupt changes in topography, large rock outcrops, and trails near water bodies.

Planning also has an economic benefit by allowing efficient and stable access to your woods. Although you may be eager to initiate the harvest, there are hidden costs to not pre-planning. These include skid trail locations that don't serve other property needs, added costs for equipment maintenance and repair, extra permitting fees, down-time during marginal weather, and added costs to restore poorly planned trails and roads following harvest.

During a harvest, the emphasis shifts to the golden rule of BMPs "controlling small amounts of slow moving water." The easiest way to accomplish this is to avoid concentrating water or allowing it to accelerate on hills and slopes. Erosion happens because water comes in contact with exposed mineral soil. Mineral soil will be exposed when logging equipment is used on any but frozen ground or ground covered with snow or slash, so precautions are warranted to offset the effects. By careful placement of skid and haul roads, the amount of water that gets onto a road is reduced. Also, the water that gets onto a well-planned road moves slowly, is quickly drained from the road and reduces the amount of soil it transports. During the



A critical step in pre-planning your harvest is to map the boundaries and skid trails. This allows you and your forester to anticipate areas that need special attention to protect water quality.

harvest, think about water control at landings, on skid trails, where trails cross streams, where trails are near streams, and when adverse weather patterns arise. Timing is also a critical issue. Pay attention to the weather forecast and prepare in advance for major rain events. BMPs should also be implemented if timber harvesters will temporarily leave the site, or after completing a section of the harvest area.

If you pre-planned and monitored activity during the harvest, after the harvest your efforts will be straightforward. The focus now is on putting to rest the disturbed soil to ensure that it doesn't erode in the future. Your sale contract should have stipulated the use of BMPs to accommodate the New York or local forest harvest BMP guidelines. Now is the time to install any water control structures along trails and roads that weren't put in as the logger progressed through the timber harvest area. Because some water control structures, such as water bars, are not appropriate during the

harvest, have the logger working a large harvest complete a section and put it to rest before moving to the next section of the harvest. While you have equipment on site is the best time to get the work completed. A final step is to seed areas of exposed soil, although in many situations seeding isn't required to get plants established.

BMPs will require you to invest some time and money in activities you might not have initially considered. However, your long-term costs will be reduced, your impacts on the environment will be minimized, and you will be left with property that continues to provide personal, environmental, and financial benefits. 🌲

Response provided by Peter Smallidge, NYS Extension Forester and Director, Arnot Teaching and Research Forest, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. This response was adapted from a FAQ developed for the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry web page.

Working as a Family

EDWARD & WANDA PIESTRAK

As we age, especially when one enters Senior Citizen status, we think of our limited future and what will become of our forest stewardship plans. In my case, three of my children have an interest in the land as well as several of the grandchildren. Therefore, I can rest peacefully knowing that the land will be cared for and preserved into the future; at least for two more generations. Therefore, we have a responsibility to expose our siblings to the forest. To show them that the benefits of forestland are numerous and far outweigh the work and effort to maintain its welfare and stability.

How does one achieve that? Well in our case, we make a point of going to the land on regular basis to work and play. Doing it as a family is enjoyable and fun. The grandchildren have a very short attention span, thus we do many diverse projects such as: clearing trails, cutting weeds, planting food plots, building vernal ponds, planting trees, putting up fences, etc. The projects are many and we keep mixing them up.



Josh Piestrak (left) Cody Piestrak (right) proud of their accomplishment.

You would be surprised how the youngsters enjoy using a pair of loppers. On the other side, the youngsters enjoy picking blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, mushrooms, corn, flowers, leaves, pine cones, counting deer, turkey, rabbits, grouse, bear, etc.

This past spring, two of the grandchildren wanted to plant some trees. We decided to purchase 100 white pine seedlings and plant them in a section of clear-cut that has limited regeneration of trees. During the planting of the trees it rained (cats and dogs), but the kids

loved being in the rain and mud. Around the house they would not be allowed to be out in the pouring rain, however out in the woodlot with grandpa it was permissible. As you can see in the photographs, the grandchildren were very proud of the planting experience. Now when we go to a section of the woodlot, they inquired as to how their trees are growing. I am pleased to report that nearly 100% of the trees have survived thus far (past five months).

When my grandchildren are 50 years old they can tell their own grandchildren the large pine trees were planted when they were just youngsters. I guess that's what life is all about in the forest for children.

With all that youthful energy and room to move about on the land, Mothers really appreciate it when the youngsters come home exhausted and eager to relate the experience. PS. They do sleep well after the experience. 🌲

Edward & Wanda Piestrak are MFO's and reside in Lindley, NY.



Cody Piestrak displaying a white pine seedling as Ed Piestrak prepares the next hole.



Josh Piestrak planting a white pine seedling.

Kid's Corner

REBECCA HARGRAVE



Do you have a photo of you and your kids or grandkids in your forest? If so, *The New York Forest Owner* would like to see it! Send an electronic or hard copy to *Forest Owner* editor, MaryBeth Malmsheimer, (address on page 22) and it may end up on this page!

Pete Smallidge submitted this photograph. The picture shows Nathalie (left) and Adelaide Smallidge enjoying an opportunity to refine their riflery skills on paper plates. They were using single-shot, children sized, 22's.

Mapping Your World

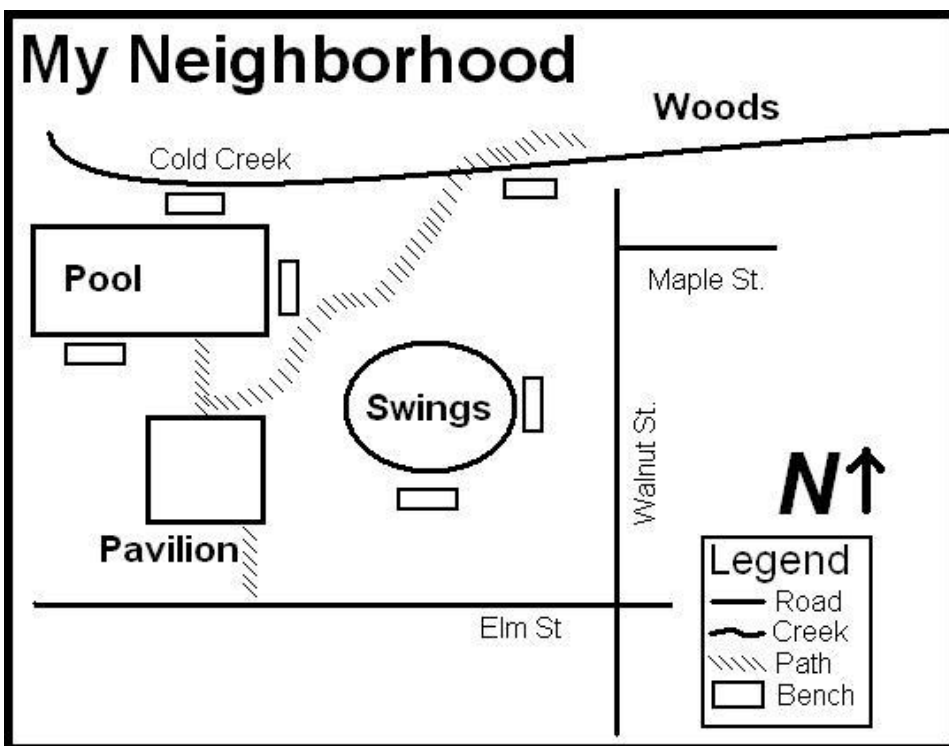
You've probably seen or used maps before. Maps are great for telling us where things are and how to get from point A to B. Get a map of your town or county, what does it have on it? There are most likely roads, rivers, hospitals, parks, schools, or rest stops. What can you use that map for? Can you find where you live, or where you go to school?

Maps are easy and fun to make, so let's draw one.

So what are you going to map? Choose a place you're familiar with, your yard, your neighborhood or your farm. Think of the things you want to include on your map: houses, garages, roads, creeks, trails, and landmarks. Landmarks are things of interest that you might want to include such as, your favorite spot to sit when you're outside, a good swimming hole, a playground, a campfire ring, or a spot where a special event happened. Be sure to also include some details on your map like paths, swings, benches, or sign posts.

Think about how all the things that will be in your map relate to each other in space: how far apart are they, how big are they compared to one another, and what direction is it from one to another?

Start to draw; get a big piece of paper and layout your map. It may be helpful to be at the place you're drawing, or use pictures to help you



place things in the proper location. If you have numerous things in your map that will be the same, such as buildings, you can create a symbol for them. Be sure to label creek and road names and points of interest.

After you've drawn your map, give your map a title, generally something that has to do with the location. Also if you used symbols, make a legend, which shows the symbol and what it stands for. The last thing you need is a north arrow, which shows which direction north is on your map.

Professional maps have a scale. Scales show how the distances between things on your map relate to their actual distances in real life. For example 1 inch = 100 feet, where 1 inch on your map is equivalent to 100 feet in real life. Figuring out your scale can be a little tricky, try it if you want a challenge. 🏔️

Rebecca Hargrave is the Community Horticulture and Natural Resources Educator at Cornell University Cooperative Extension in Chenango County.

NYFOA CHAPTER EVENTS

Southern Tier Chapter Hosts Bluestone Tour

It is common knowledge among forest owners that the most valuable black cherry in the world comes from the southern tier of New York State and the northern tier of Pennsylvania. But did you know that 100% of all the bluestone on Earth is quarried within a 90-mile radius of Deposit NY? This is just one of the surprising insights gained by 20 members of the NYFOA Southern tier chapter during their June 10th tour of the Tompkins Bluestone facilities in Hancock, NY.

Bill Mirch, a member of the family that owns and operates Tompkins Bluestone, led the tour and demonstrated the same knowledge and passion for his subject that we reserve for our trees. We observed the many uses for bluestone, from irregular patio stone, to sidewalk squares, to architectural stone - cut to precise dimensions with computerized high-pressure water jets or an awesome, 10-foot diameter, diamond-tipped saw. We also visited a nearby operating quarry and got to see how a site is restored after

quarrying operations are completed.

Bill also discussed typical terms and conditions of stone quarry leases and DEC regulations covering operation and closing of quarries. Several Chapter members had been approached by quarrymen about prospecting for bluestone on their property and this tour helped us learn how a quarrying operation might fit in with our overall forest management plans. ▲

Information and photographs courtesy of Jerry Michael.



SOT Chapter members with tour host Bill Mirch in front center (with blue jeans and sweatshirt).



Bill Mirch with large block of bluestone for sawing into dimensional pieces.



Group observing large blocks of stone for sawing.



Group observing an operating bluestone quarry.

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FLEP Can Help Forest Owners Address Sirex Woodwasp Concerns

Sirex noctilio, a European Woodwasp, is an invasive insect that has been discovered this year in at least 18 central and western New York counties. Sirex Woodwasp infests various species of pines which generally results in tree mortality. Unhealthy, stressed trees growing in overcrowded conditions are much more prone to infestation, damage and mortality. The female Woodwasp chooses unhealthy pines, injecting a toxic mucous and symbiotic fungus, when laying their eggs. The fungus and toxins working together can kill trees in a short period of time, creating a suitable environment for larval development.

The Sirex Woodwasp is known to attack many species worldwide including white, red, Scotch, Austrian, loblolly, Monterey, jack, slash and shortleaf pines. White, red and Scotch pine have been planted extensively while white and red pine are common compo-

nents of natural forests in New York.

Healthy, fast growing, well managed pines are more capable of resisting Woodwasp infestation. Forest management actions around the world to address Sirex Woodwasp concern have included non-commercial thinning as well as commercial selection harvesting of pine stands removing stressed, overcrowded and unhealthy trees, retaining healthy dominant trees.

Professional Foresters can help private forest owners to identify areas of pines and can recommend cutting activities to remove unhealthy trees, while retaining dominant trees that are better able to resist Woodwasp infestation. A forester will rely upon a science-based guide to determine the number and types of trees to be retained in a thinning to enhance the overall health of the stand.

In many cases the resulting cut material will not have a market value for use as either fiber (pulpwood or fuel

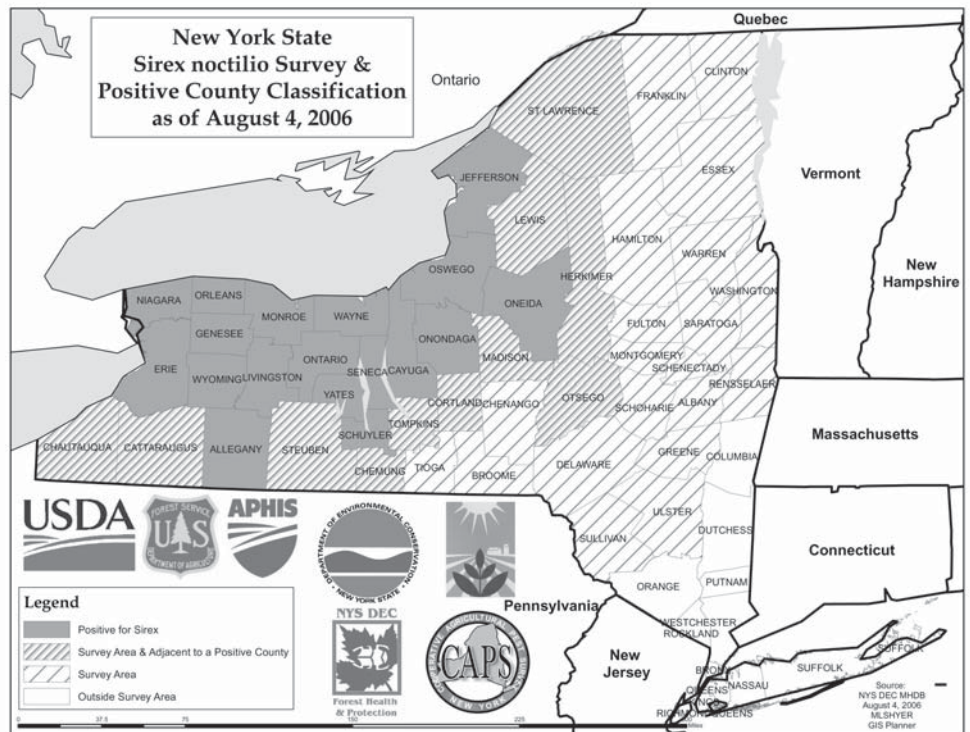
chips) or logs. This thinning work may involve a cost to the landowner when cut trees have no commercial value in the market place.

The Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) can help landowners in this situation. FLEP is administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation for the US Forest Service, in cooperation with the New York Forest Owners Association and Cornell Cooperative Extension. FLEP provides financial assistance to offset a portion of the costs associated with the implementation of sustainable forestry practices on private forest land. The program can provide financial assistance to conduct cultural work to enhance growing conditions in eligible pine stands including the development of a cutting prescription by a professional forester as well as cutting work completed on a non-commercial basis. All work must be done in accordance with a Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan and approved for financial assistance before work is started. Forest Stewardship Plans can be prepared by a DEC Service Forester or landowners may use FLEP financial assistance to cover a portion of the costs associated with private sector professional ser-

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vices to develop such a management plan.

In New York, the State Forester has dedicated a portion of available FLEP funding to support cultural work to address the *Sirex* Woodwasp concern in the central and western portions of the state. A total of over \$46,000 will be available to owners of eligible pine stands situated on high and medium Forest Stewardship potential lands, as determined through New York's Stewardship Analysis Project, on a first come basis. These monies are available to cover up to 75% of the costs to have professionally developed silvicultural prescriptions prepared and to conduct non-commercial thinning work.

Forest landowners may wish to access the DEC web site for additional information about FLEP at <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/df/privland/flep/index.html> and *Sirex* Woodwasp at <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/df/privland/forprot/health/inv.html>.

Landowners that desire FLEP financial assistance are encouraged to contact their local DEC forestry office for additional information about FLEP and *Sirex* Woodwasp. A list of offices and geographic areas they serve is available on the web at <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/df/loffice.html>.

Information provided by the Bureau of Private Land Services Department of Environmental Conservation.

Pest Alert

The USDA Forest Service has issued a detailed, two-sided pest alert sheet discussing the *Sirex* Woodwasp. The sheet includes overall information on the *Sirex* Woodwasp as well as Distribution, Identification, Biology and Biological Control. If you are interested in receiving a full color, 8½ x 11 sheet, please contact Liana Gooding at NYFOA, P.O. Box 541, Lima, New York 14485 or by calling 1-800-836-3566.

Pest Alert
United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry
NA-PR-07-05
June 2005

Sirex woodwasp—*Sirex noctilio* F. (Hymenoptera: Sircidae)

Sirex woodwasp has been the most common species of exotic woodwasp detected at United States ports-of-entry associated with solid wood packing materials. Recent detections of *sirex* woodwasp outside of port areas in the United States have raised concerns because this insect has the potential to cause significant mortality of pines. Awareness of the symptoms and signs of a *sirex* woodwasp infestation increases the chance of early detection, and thus, the rapid response needed to contain and manage this exotic forest pest.

Distribution
Sirex woodwasp is native to Europe, Asia, and northern Africa, where it is generally considered to be a secondary pest. In its native range, it attacks pines almost exclusively, e.g., Scotch (*Pinus sylvestris*), Austrian (*P. nigra*), and maritime (*P. pinaster*) pines. This woodwasp was introduced inadvertently into New Zealand, Australia, Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and South Africa. In these Southern Hemisphere countries, *sirex* woodwasp attacks exotic pine plantations, and it has caused up to 90 percent tree mortality. Most of the plantations are planted with North American pine species, especially Monterey pine (*P. radiata*) and loblolly pine (*P. taeda*). Other known susceptible pines include slash (*P. elliotii*), shortleaf (*P. echinata*), ponderosa (*P. ponderosa*), lodgepole (*P. contorta*), and jack (*P. banksiana*).

Identification
Woodwasps (or horntails) are large, robust insects, usually 1.0 to 1.5 inches long (Figures 1 and 2). Adults have a spear-shaped plate (cornus) at the tail end; in addition females have a long ovipositor under this plate. Larvae are creamy white, legless, and have a distinctive dark spine at the rear of the abdomen (Figure 3). More than a dozen species of native horntails occur in North America. No keys to identify woodwasp larvae to the species level have been developed; however, adult specimens have features to distinguish *sirex* woodwasp from native horntails. Key characteristics of the *sirex* woodwasp include these:

- Body dark metallic blue or black; abdomen of males black at base and tail end, with middle segments orange.
- Legs reddish-yellow; feet (tarsi) black; males with black hind legs.
- Antennae entirely black.

Symptoms
Sirex woodwasp can attack living pines, while native woodwasps attack only dead and dying trees. At low populations, *sirex* woodwasp selects suppressed, stressed, and injured trees for egg laying. Foliage of infested trees

Figure 1. *Sirex noctilio*—adult female.
Figure 2. *Sirex noctilio*—adult male.
Figure 3. *Sirex noctilio*—larva and close-up of posterior spine.
Figure 4. Green needles wilt and point straight down.
Figure 5. Needles eventually turn red.
Figure 6. Resin beads and droplets at egg-laying site.
Figure 7. Larval galleries with tightly packed frass.
Figure 8. Round exit holes.

Photo Credits:
Dennis A. Haugen and Kent Loeffler (Dept. of Plant Pathology, Cornell University).

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One Small Log Job, So Many Thoughts

MICHAEL GREASON

Donald and Nancy O'Donnell have a home in a woodlot they own in northern Rensselaer County. As they were buying the property from an elderly couple, they discovered an active timber theft that was immediately abandoned when the real estate agent showed them the land. This theft followed several years after a heavy cut that established a woodlot dominated by big tooth aspen (popple). At this time, the popple is beginning to decline and fall out of the stand, and the other large trees are coarse, multi-stemmed, declining white pines competing with some better quality white pines and mixed hardwoods. Due to the past theft, there is a dense understory of black birch, red oak, and hard and soft maples.

The O'Donnells decided to have an improvement harvest. With high-value hardwood markets in a slump, there is

less pressure on loggers to cut those species, so they can shift to lower value species to survive. Yet to remain profitable, operating on low-value wood products requires an efficient operation. The O'Donnells had a sale on twenty-one acres consisting of 78 MBF (thousand board feet) of popple, low-grade white pine, cottonwood, white birch, and pitch pine marked and advertised. Only one bid was received, but that bid came in a few hundred dollars over the estimated value expected. John Ruebel of J. R. Logging from Petersburg executed a contract with the O'Donnells.

Bear in mind that despite the market slump, especially on a 50/50 loggers' choice harvest, the logger can make more money cutting normally high-value timber at a reduced price rather than low-value species and poor quality timber. But by working with landown-

ers who are shifting to the low-value wood, loggers can establish long-term relationships that benefit both parties in the long run. It is the forest owner who stands to gain the most by not selling the high-value timber in the depressed market.

One aspect of the sale that appealed to John Ruebel is that the O'Donnell's land is well drained and could be logged now despite this year's high rainfall. John could take advantage of both the Commonwealth Plywood and pulp markets at this time of year while the bark peels easily. John and his brother Carl are very well equipped, efficient loggers. They have a Timbco feller/buncher, two skidders, a slasher, a log truck, and a tractor trailer, plus a firewood processor operation at home. They are among the local loggers that make the forester look good because they take obvious pride in doing exceptional logging.



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Cutting a tree with the feller/buncher.



Felling a tree with the feller/buncher.



Carl Ruebel (with blue hard hat) & John Ruebel stand in front of the Timbco feller/buncher.

There are two advantages of a mechanized harvest in this type of woodlot. First, low-value wood needs to move quickly and this equipment is very productive. Second, especially with a species like aspen, being able to cut the tree and then carry it to directionally fell it in the same spot with several other trees that are lined up with the direction of the skidding significantly reduces damage to the residual stand.

A lot of this forester's tree selection took aesthetics into account. I left quite



John Ruebel and his Timbco feller/buncher.

a few decently formed trees with butt rot from previous skidding scars. I know those trees won't improve much during the next ten to fifteen years until the next harvest; but saving them drastically lowered the visual impact of this sale. Yet the stand is thinned enough so the new cohorts can develop well.

Despite the advantages of the mechanized harvest and selection accounting for aesthetics, within the first two days of operation I received a distraught phone call. Don and Nancy had been with me while I marked the lot, and I thought I had done a great job explaining all the issues with harvesting timber. But, so much for thinking. Words aren't as visual as the real action. A three-foot diameter, five-stemmed, hundred-foot tall dominant white pine creates a hole when it falls in the forest... especially in a two-storied stand. And, those wolf trees are too big for the Timbco and must be cut by hand, falling where they grew. Nancy O'Donnell was not expecting the visual impact she was seeing.

I immediately went to meet with Nancy and Don at the woodlot. To the callused view of a forester exposed to logging on a regular basis, the job looked great. I could see MY crop trees free to grow; there was minimal felling and skidding damage; and this is sustainable forestry. Yet I could

certainly empathize with Nancy's emotions. The tops, the smashed saplings and poles, the fresh stumps and skid trails certainly do not look like the woods with only orange paint sprayed across the stems and root collar. We walked and talked about the mechanical thinning of the understory, the woody debris that would add to the soil with time, and the fact the trails would be left clear and passable, plus the major factor that time allows the site to green up quickly. I believe Nancy was much more accepting of the results by the time I left.

When I again returned to the lot to take the pictures submitted with this article, Nancy expressed appreciation for John and Carl, and she was friendly towards me. I believe in the long run she and Don will become true supporters of sustainable forestry. Hopefully they will become active in NYFOA; they have already invited a Capital District Chapter woods walk where we can discuss the various issues discussed here. A lot of declining wood product was salvaged, which contributed to the local economy. Don and Nancy now have easier access to their firewood cutting that can further release the best crop trees. I think some thrifty red oaks and maples just exclaimed, "Free at last!" 🌲

Michael Greason is a Consulting Forester in Catskill, NY, a long term member of NYFOA and a member of the Capital District Chapter.

Deer Flies and Horse Flies Harass Both Man And Beasts

DOUGLAS C. ALLEN

Few insects are as well known to forest owners as adults in the family Tabanidae (tah-ban-i-dee). Usually referred to as deer flies and horse flies, this group of insects goes by many common names, such as greenhead (for species of horse flies with bright green eyes) and, in Maine, moose fly. The first recorded notice of tabanids in North America was made over 400 years ago in Virginia. It was at this time that the term “gadfly” was attached to the group. According to Webster, a “gadfly” is a person who “annoys or irritates others” —this certainly describes deer flies! This habit of persistently annoying humans (deer flies) and livestock (horse flies) also earned some species the nickname “bulldog.” The “blue-tail fly” mentioned in some old folk tunes is thought to refer to a species in the genus *Tabanus*, whose abdomen (posterior half of the body) takes on a bluish hue.

The adults of all species, especially the horseflies, are very strong fliers,

which makes it difficult for an intended victim to escape once the fly locates a warm blooded animal. They can easily keep up with a running horse or a deer on the move. It is an eerie feeling, and a bit unnerving, to watch clouds of deer flies chase my dark green truck down a woods road! The flies are primarily attracted to warm, moving, dark objects. Light colored clothing helps a little to deter attraction. The primary attractant, however, is carbon dioxide—all mammals exhale significant quantities of this gas every time they breath. When you think about it, responding to a relatively high concentration of CO₂ is a very efficient way for these blood suckers to locate a host!

The most common species in our region belong to one of two genera (a genus is a group of closely related species); *Chrysops* (cry-sops, deer flies) and *Tabanus* (horse flies). Some species of *Tabanus* can be more than an inch long (Fig. 1) as an adult, but generally their length is in the 0.4 to



Figure 1. Top view of a horsefly (*Tabanus*); one inch long.

1.1 inch range. Deer fly adults are smaller (0.3 to 0.4 inches long), but this group constitutes the most serious pests of humans (Fig. 2). The large eyes (Fig. 3) vary from black to bright green, yellow or orange, depending on the species. Horsefly wings are clear and colorless. Deer flies, on the other hand, have characteristic “pictured” or striped wings (Figs. 2 and 4).

The bite can be painful! Only female deer flies require blood meals, the males settle for pollen and flower



Figure 2. Side view of a deerfly (*Chrysops*); 0.3” long.

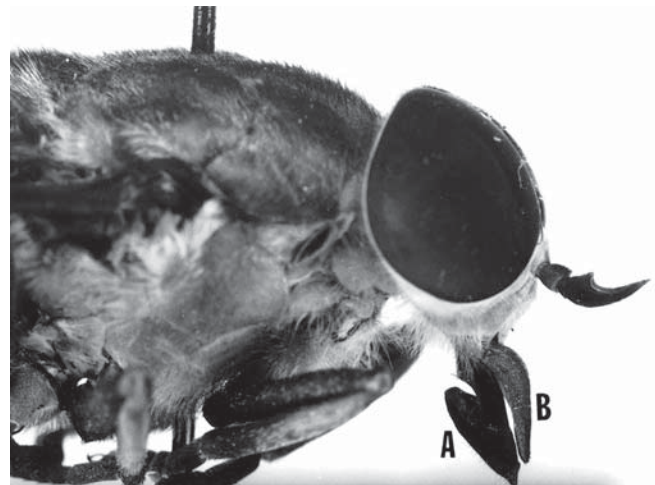


Figure 3. Side view of a horsefly head. Note large eye, horn-like antenna in front of the eye and proboscis beneath (A – sponge-like tip, B – blade-like mouthparts are retracted beneath this flap)



Figure 4. Horsefly wing (top, 0.8" long), Deerfly wing (bottom, 0.3" long).

nectar or other sweet excretions. They do not feed on blood. The female's mouthparts, however, are especially well adapted for "biting" or penetrating the host's skin. More precisely, the mouthparts actually tear or "saw" through the skin and then "lap" or soak up the blood as it flows from the wound. The structures associated with feeding evolved from the chewing type typical of more primitive insects into very sharp, blade-like organs encased at the base of a tube-like structure called a proboscis (pro-boss-iss). Once the host's skin is pierced and blood begins to flow, it is soaked up by the foot-like "sponge" at the end of the proboscis and directed into the mouth (Fig. 3).

The itching that follows an attack often can be just as annoying as the "bite" itself. This irritation comes from certain chemicals the female injects into the wound along with her saliva.

Whenever your skin is injured to the point where blood is caused to flow, this condition stimulates a defensive

reaction by your body, called a hemostatic response. The latter is characterized by platelet aggregation at the injured site, coagulation and the constriction of small blood vessels. The purpose of this composite reaction is to stop blood flow. A deer fly must inhibit this process in order to obtain an adequate amount of blood before the system is sealed off. The defensive reaction is delayed as long as she injects saliva with its anticoagulant chemicals.

The tabanid life cycle begins when masses of cigar-shaped eggs are deposited on vegetation that overhangs water, mud or moist ground. These masses are covered with a jelly-like material and may contain as many as 1000 eggs. Most species are semi-aquatic, but some are truly aquatic; that is, all life stages are associated with an aquatic habitat. When the eggs hatch the worm-like, spindle-shaped (i.e., tapered at both ends) immature stage (larva) drops and spends its life in water or very moist soil. Some larvae feed solely on organic debris, but most species are predators of other small organisms. The larval stage overwinters, and when fully grown the insect crawls away from the aquatic habitat and transforms into an adult on relatively dry land.

Transmission of diseases to humans and domestic animals has been attributed

to tabanids in many tropical regions and certain parts of North America. Fortunately, in the northeastern United States these flies are of concern solely from a nuisance standpoint. ▲

This is the 86th in the series of articles contributed by Dr. Allen, Professor of Entomology at SUNY-ESF. It is possible to download this collection from the NYS DEC Web page at: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dlf/privland/forprot/health/nyfo/index.html>.

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Woodlot Calendar

See www.nyfoa.org for more information on these events and for a complete listing of other upcoming workshops and woodswalks across the state.

September 16, 2006 (Saturday)

Growing American Ginseng in the Adirondack Region of NY State

Sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Greene County and Cornell University's Uihlein Forest on Saturday, from 1-3 pm. Research and Demonstration site visit at 2 pm at Cornell University's Uihlein Forest, 157 Bear Cub Lane, Lake Placid, NY 12946. This program is designed to teach individuals how to get started growing American ginseng on forested land. For registration, please contact Michael Farrell at (518) 523-9337 or mlf36@cornell.edu. Please make checks payable to Cornell University and mail to 157 Bear Cub Lane, Lake Placid, NY 12946.

September 23-25, 2006 (Saturday-Monday)

WFL "The Game of Logging" Training

Genesee County Park, South Bethany.

The Game of Logging is a nationally recognized training class in the safe and effective use of a chainsaw. The first class covers safe use of a chainsaw, safety equipment, sharpening, and basic tree felling techniques. It is suitable for people who have never used a saw as well as people who have some experience but no formal training. Everyone leaves this class with the experience of having cut down a tree. The second class deals with saw maintenance, additional felling techniques and how to handle some hazardous situations such as spring poles. Cost is \$125 (discount available for WFL members.) Please contact Dale Schaefer at (585)367-2849 for more information and to register.

September 30, 2006 (Saturday)

Game of Logging Level 1 Seminar

Hostetter Appraisal Services is hosting a Game of Logging Level 1 Seminar at Catamount Lodge, Colton, NY, on September 30th with an optional Gentle Logging/ATV seminar on October 1st for those that are interested. Bill Lindloff will be the instructor for both seminars.

Bill will demonstrate the Novajack (www.novajack.com) ATV logging trailer and other landowner and ATV logging techniques on Sunday. They also have a Future Forestry (www.futureforestry.com) Fetching Arch with an ATV hitch and a Junior Arch which they will use at the Lodge and will be available for participants to view and try.

The cost for the Game of Logging Course is \$125.00, the ATV logging seminar costs \$25. There are a very limited number of beds available in the Lodge, at a reasonable rate, for participants that may want/need to stay overnight in the area. The web site for the lodge for directions is www.Catamountlodge.com

Participants should contact Bob Hostetter for additional information and reservations at (315) 386-2745.

November 4, 2006 (Saturday)

NYFOA Woods Walk 1pm-4pm

All NYFOA members are invited to a woods walk of Hobnob Forest, 130 acres of northern hardwoods near Ithaca owned and managed by Peter Levatich since 1975, with the assistance of his son Tim. We will tour several areas of the property to show and discuss leaves-off tree identification, silviculture, forest roads, forestry equipment and more. How did we start and what have we learned? Bring your questions and experiences so that everyone can benefit at this meeting. Light refreshments provided. This is a rain or shine event. Hobnob Forest is located at 158 Bailor Rd., Brooktondale, NY. If you would like a map, please contact Tim Levatich at tlevatich@frontiernet.net or (607) 539-9969.



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BLACK WALNUT

(*Juglans nigra* Linnaeus)

Black Walnut is a valuable timber tree native to some areas of New York State. It can reach a large size and produce highly prized wood and large edible nuts. It is common at low elevations in rich, well-drained bottomlands northward to Saratoga and Jefferson Counties and west to Lake Erie. The wood is heavy, hard, strong, durable, rich dark brown in color, easily worked, and takes a fine polish. It is largely used in cabinetmaking, interior trim, and for gunstocks. It deserves protection and planting in suitable locations.

Bark—thick, dark, deeply furrowed with rounded edges between; grayish brown in color; inner bark dark chocolate brown in color.

Twigs—at first hairy, later smooth,

stout, brittle, orange brown in color, cream-colored chambered pith. **Winter buds**—terminal bud pale, downy, scarcely longer than broad, blunt-pointed, less than 1/3 inch long; lateral buds less than 1/6 inch long.

Leaves—alternate, compound, with 13 to 23 leaflets; leaflets from 3 to 4 inches long, sharp-pointed, serrate along margin, usually stalkless, leaves up to 2 feet in length.

Fruit—a round nut 1½ inches in diameter, black, the surface roughened by rather coarse ridges, enclosed in a yellowish green, fleshy, husk, usually solitary or in clusters of 2, ripening in



BLACK WALNUT
Leaf, one-fifth natural size; twig, three-fourths natural size; fruit, one-third natural size

October. Kernel—sweet, edible, and when properly cured somewhat easier to extract than the butternut. It is necessary to remove the outer husk if nuts are to be stored.

Outstanding features—large round nut; cream-colored, chambered pith. ▲

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



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Member Profile: *Bob & Dave Preston*

ALEXANDRA SILVA

Key members of the Niagara Frontier Chapter of NYFOA, Bob and Dave Preston make an incredible father and son duo. As the acting director of the NFC, which includes the Erie, Niagara, and Wyoming counties, Bob helps to promote sustainable woodland practices with the help of his son, Dave. While they were instrumental in the establishment of the chapter, Bob and Dave now aid others with the management of privately owned woodlands. For their many efforts, Bob and Dave were honored with a Special Recognition Award from the president of NYFOA in February of this year. When not working on the woodlots of others, Bob and Dave still manage to spend time working on their own property.

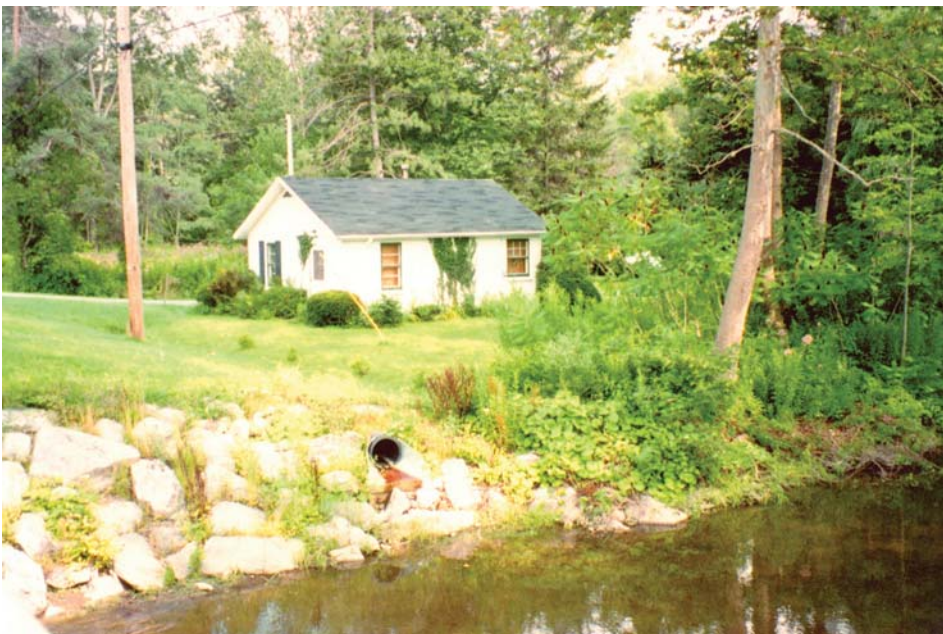
In the late 40's and early 50's, farmland was widespread in upstate New York, while there was a lack of wooded area. At around that time Bob's father was helping to care for a 70 acre expanse of farmland in Holland, NY. Bob's father was given 8 acres of the property as his own, but when the original owner passed away, the entire property was left to the Preston family. Although the property had been only pasture and crop land when it was passed on to the Preston family, Bob and his father took on the difficult task of restoring the property back to its original state.

To begin the process, the family acquired trees from the state, mainly pines such as Scotch, white and red pine plus American larch. As time progressed, however, hardwood

trees began to dominate the forest and overwhelm the pines. Along with trees, the state also provided various shrubs to help transform the property back to a forest where wildlife could thrive. The groundcover produced was intended as a hideaway for all types of birds and animals. As Bob stated, "[Groundcover] was one of the most important pieces to reverting the property back to forest." Unfortunately, the multi-flora rose plant, which had also been added to the land, became hard to control and ended up as an invasive plant instead of a beneficial one.

In spite of some of the difficulties the Preston family faced while transforming the property, they have been quite successful. As a retired accountant, Bob visits his property quite frequently, though he and his wife actually reside elsewhere. On the property there is a modernized farm house, as well as a renovated cottage with a garden. To bring added revenue to the property, the Preston family rents out both homes. With children in various parts of the country, Bob and his wife also use the property for family gatherings.

Among his other activities on the property, Bob grows black walnut trees, which are fairly unusual, but have a high timber value. Though Bob began growing the black walnuts as a hobby, they have now become a long term investment, which he hopes to pass on to son Dave and his family. As for the other types of trees on their property, Bob and Dave strive toward the goal of enhancing



1994 - Renovated cottage on the lower half of the property in Holland, NY, on Casanovia Creek.

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1984. This is the property at the end of the road where the old farmhouse sits. Larch trees in Fall foliage. Notice the large growth of trees in background which look to the lower property.



Spring 1953. Lower part of the property in Holland, NY. Photo shows Bob Preston and his Father tending to their garden. Looking from the valley to the area of foothills, notice how small forest growth is—this is a farmland changing to forest situation. Most of this land has reverted to hardwood forest especially on hillside.

their growth and improving the trees to high quality lumber.

As with all endeavors, Bob and Dave have had to face problems. In their case, the obstacle came in the form of beech trees, which have the potential to become invasive and to overwhelm the maple or cherry trees

on the property. Working hard to save the other hardwoods, Bob and Dave began by cutting back the branches of the beech trees about two and half years ago. With the help of others, a portion of the beech trees were cut down to the ground and were treated with chemicals. More

recently, Bob has decided to discontinue the use of chemicals. Fortunately, the beech trees are now under control and the other hardwoods have had a chance to flourish.

As members of NYFOA, the training Bob and Dave have received is what allows them to maintain a prosperous forest. According to Bob, the training they received through NYFOA on how to improve/enhance the value of the timber was extremely beneficial. Now, as a Master Forest Owner, Bob is able to put the training he has received to work helping others. As far as father and son teams are concerned, Bob and Dave are not only a pair of skilled woodsmen, but they also provide invaluable assistance to those with privately owned woodland properties. ▲

Alexandra Silva is a Forest Resources Extension Program Assistant at Cornell University, Department of Natural Resources, Ithaca, NY 14853.

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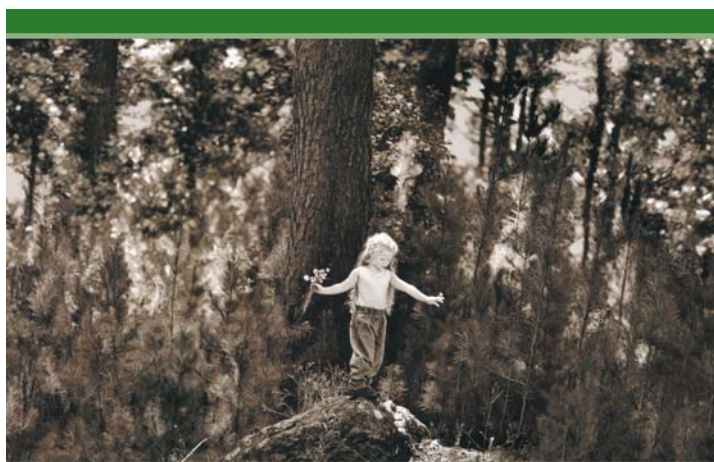
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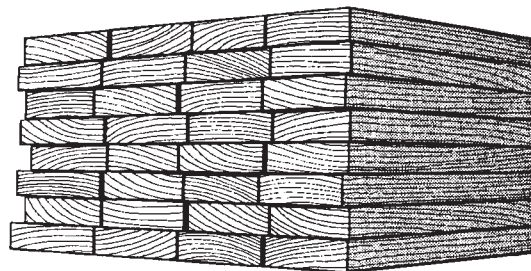
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