

The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

May/June 2007



Member Profile: Mark & Joann Kurtis

Volume 45 Number 3



FOUNDED 1963

www.nyfoa.org

**THE NEW YORK
FOREST OWNERS
ASSOCIATION**

Officers & Directors

Alan White, President

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

Dan Cleveland, Vice President

682 Federal Road
Erin, NY 14838; (607) 732-7884

Kelly Smallidge, Secretary

611 County Rd 13
Van Etten, NY 14889; (607) 589-7530

Steve Teuscher, Treasurer

1392 Lillibridge Rd
Portville, NY 14770; (716) 933-0370

**Peter Smallidge, Chair Editorial Committee and
Ex-Officio Board Member**

Cornell University, Fernow Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853; (607) 592 3640

2008

Dan Cleveland, Erin, (607) 732-7884

Cindy King, Amsterdam, (518) 842-3556

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

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

2009

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

Steve Teuscher, Portville, (716) 933-0370

Alan White, Halcott Center, (845) 254-6031

Frank Winkler, Andes, (845)676-4825

2010

Renee Bouplon, Hudson, (518) 822-0613

René Germain, Syracuse, (315) 687-6217

Christopher Tcimpidis, Livingston Manor, (845) 439-3989

Neil Walker, Allegany, (716) 375-5233

Chapter-Designated Directors

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

Carl Wiedemann, Capital District; (518) 280-8892

Rich Taber, Central New York; (315) 837-4265

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

Bill LaPoint, Northern Adirondack; (315) 353-6663

Bob Preston, Niagara Frontier; (716) 632-5862

John Sullivan, Southern Adirondack; (518) 494-3292

Dana Benjamin, Southern Tier; (607) 723-2958

Dick Harrington, Southern Finger Lakes; (607) 657-4480

Mike Seager, Western Finger Lakes; (585) 414-6511

Mary Jeanne Packer, Executive Director

PO Box 210, 124 E. 4th Street
Watkins Glen, NY 14891; (607) 535-9790
mjpacker@nyfoa.org

Liana Gooding, Office Administrator

P.O. Box 541
Lima, N.Y 14485; (800) 836-3566
lgooding@nyfoa.org

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

© 2007 New York Forest Owners Association

In This Issue . . .

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARY JEANNE PACKER 3

THE POLICY PAGE

CARL WIEDEMANN 5

ASK A PROFESSIONAL

PETER SMALLIDGE 6

NEW YORK STATE TREE FARM NEWS

MICHAEL BURNS 8

KID'S CORNER—WHY SHOULD WE PLANT A TREE?

REBECCA HARGRAVE 9

THE ECONOMIC REALITY OF SMALL WOODLOTS

JOHN SULLIVAN 10

STORIES FROM THE WOODS: MFO PROGRAM NEWS

JACK MCSHANE 12

2007 NYFOA AWARDS 14

LADY BEETLES

DOUGLAS ALLEN 16

WHOSE FOREST IS THIS?

BOB BEYFUSS 19

MEMBER PROFILE – MARK & JOANN KURTIS

ALEXANDRA SILVA 21

**The New York
Forest Owner**

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 45, NUMBER 3

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 Malmshemer, Editor, The New York Forest Owner, 134 Lincklaen Street, Cazenovia, New York 13035. Materials may also be e-mailed to mmalmsh@sy.edu. Articles, artwork and photos are invited and if requested, are returned after use. The deadline for submission for the July/August issue is June 1, 2007.

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.

This magazine is printed on Accent Opaque paper produced at International Paper's Ticonderoga, New York, mill from working Adirondack forests, managed responsibly in accordance with the principles of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

www.nyfoa.org

COVER: Photo shows Blueberry picking at Puckerbrush Farm, Rushford, NY. For complete member profile, turn to page 21. Photo courtesy of Mark Kurtis.

From The Executive Director

Congratulations to the NYFOA members Ron Pedersen and Jim Beil who were recognized with the NYFOA Outstanding Service Award and Heiberg Memorial Award in February. Learn about their accomplishments on page 14. Also congratulations and thanks to the recipients of the 2006 Chapter Activity Awards. These awards recognize a volunteer individual or couple from each Chapter for helping their Chapter to operate effectively and to reach out to members and other forest owner.

2007 Forestry Awareness Day was held at the State Capitol on March 19. I was truly impressed at the number of NYFOA



members who made the effort to attend this important event and played an active role in discussing forestry concerns with elected officials. NYFOA

Board Member John Sullivan (Southern Adirondack Chapter) was a member of a panel that discussed Contributions of Forestry to the Upstate Economy. Read John's thoughtful comments on page 10. We have received several other opinion editorials; and these will be published in future editions of *The Forest Owner*.

How does NYFOA develop its position statements? Thanks to NYFOA Policy Committee Chair Carl Wiedemann, this and other frequently asked questions about NYFOA's positions have been addressed. Learn more on page 5; and also find out about a forestry issues survey to which nearly 50 NYFOA annual meeting attendees responded. The NYFOA

Policy Committee would like to get your opinion on NYFOA's involvement in the public forestry policy arena, on supporting continuation of DEC's forestry assistance program, on the importance of cost share programs, and more. Please complete a short member feedback survey the Association's website at ; or request a paper copy from NYFOA's office.

NYFOA is partnering with Cornell University Cooperative Extension to offer

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

the 2007 ForestConnect Letter Series to forest owners and forest enthusiasts across NYS. This educational program is based upon an award-winning project developed by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Warren County and the Greater Adirondack Resource Conservation and Development Council. Funding is provided through the NYS DEC and USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry. The 2007 ForestConnect Letter Series will provide unbiased, non-commercial and accurate information about how to manage private forest lands for wildlife habitat, firewood, timber, recreation, and more. The series will include six, eight-page bulletins that provide fact-filled information on how to more fully enjoy the

continued on page 4

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.

- () 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

Multi-Year Dues:

() Individual 2-yr \$55 3-yr \$80

() Family 2-yr \$65 3-yr \$95

Additional Contribution:

() Supporter \$1-\$49

() Contributor \$50-\$99

() Sponsor \$100-\$249

() Benefactor \$250-\$499

() Steward \$500 or more

NYFOA is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization and as such your contribution may be tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Form of Payment: Check Credit Card

Credit Card No. _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature: _____

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

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.

benefits that your forest land can provide. Enrollees will receive one bulletin every three weeks during the spring and summer; and can join one of three educational walking tours in early fall. Contact the NYFOA office to sign-up for the letter series today.

Members tell me that they love the information they get about NYFOA activities and other topics of interest via this magazine and NYFOA's website (www.nyfoa.org), but they want more! So if you are one of those people who would like to receive more frequent communication, then send me an email (mjpacker@nyfoa.org) and I will add you to a list to receive periodic email updates. In return for being on NYFOA's email list, from time to time, I intend to ask the list about

their opinions on a variety of topics. For example, the first question posed to the list is, "Would you like to see the Fall Membership Walk, Tour and Banquet brought back?"

Since NYFOA President Alan White's fund appeal letter was mailed in late March, hundreds of generous donations totaling thousands of dollars have been received from Association members. If you have not already done so, I hope you will consider responding to Alan's letter and make a contribution to support NYFOA's important educational initiatives. We are well on our way to our appeal goal and with your help, we will be able to reach or exceed it! 🌲

-Mary Jeanne Packer
Executive Director

RICHARD CIPPERLY
NORTH COUNTRY FORESTRY LLC

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

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

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

**FORESTRY CONSULTANT
JARED KRAMER**

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

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

SCREEN PRINTING SPECIALISTS
Voss SIGNS, LLC
CUSTOM & STOCK SIGNS FOR LONG TERM OUTDOOR USE

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

CUSTOM AND STOCK SIGNS FOR FORESTRY PROFESSIONALS

PRINTED ON ALUMINUM AND PLASTIC FOR LONG TERM OUTDOOR USE

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

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

NO 4 X 4s ON TRAIL

NO ATVs

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



**Attention forest landowners
in the following counties:**

Clinton	Fulton	Jefferson	Oswego
Essex	Hamilton	Lewis	St. Lawrence
Franklin	Herkimer	Oncida	Warren

A new on-line database and website for linking forest products sellers and buyers in northern New York is now being developed. This is a project of NYFOA in cooperation with NYS-DEC and Cornell Cooperative Extension funded by a grant from the Northern Forest Partnership Program of the North East State Foresters Association.

If you would like to list products available (timber, firewood, or non-timber such as mushrooms or boughs/cones) for sale on your land, please go on-line and complete a simple listing form or request a hardcopy from the NYFOA office (PO Box 541, Lima, NY 14485). www.nyforestlink.org

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

The Policy Page

Frequently Asked Questions about NYFOA's Positions

CARL WIEDEMANN

Where can I find NYFOA position statements?

All current position statements are posted on the NYFOA website. We currently have position statements on revising the Forest Tax Law, on Woody Biomass, Conservation Easements, and Control of Invasive pests.

Why are NYFOA position statements important?

NYFOA tries to represent the interests of its members. Our mission is to promote sustainable forestry practices and improved stewardship on privately owned woodlands in New York State. In order to do that effectively, it is sometimes necessary to get involved in forestry issues at local, state or even federal levels. For example, NYFOA has participated in Forestry Awareness Day at the state legislature

and supported positions adopted by the Council of Forest Resource Organizations.

Who decides what the position statement says?

Each position statement is initially prepared by the Policy Committee with input from committee members.

Can NYFOA members review position statements?

The first draft is then posted for several weeks on the website for review by the membership.

Can position statements be changed once they are adopted?

Position statements should be periodically reviewed and updated as appropriate. Although there is no expiration

date, position statements should be revised at least once every five years.

How does the Policy Committee decide which issues are important?

The Policy Committee tries to focus on issues that are both important to members and which also have a broad support from members. Therefore, it is important to understand how members feel about various issues that effect forest management. One of the ways to do that is by an issues survey.

What is an issues survey?

A survey was conducted at the annual membership meeting in Syracuse. Participants were asked to rate the importance of 22 forestry related issues. Nearly fifty attendees completed the survey. The results give some indication of which issues are most important and where there is also a strong consensus of support. The following nine issue areas were identified as most important: Forestry assistance programs, Information and Education, Invasive exotic pests, Sprawl, Forest Tax Law overhaul, Opposition to Tree Tax, Timber trespass, Landowner Liability, and Right to Practice Forestry.

Now it's your turn

The NYFOA Policy Committee would like to get your opinion. Please complete a short member feedback survey on-line at www.nyfoa.org; or request a paper copy from NYFOA's office: 1-800-836-3566. ▲

Carl Wiedemann is Chair of the NYFOA Policy Committee.



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

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

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

or

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

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:

Sawlog prices are down, so I have extra time to think about finding a forester and logger. What should I look for and what should I expect?

Answer:

Finding a forester and logger are important events that help a forest owner accomplish more on their land than they can do alone. A good forester and logger have the technical ability to do the job that needs to be done. You as a forest owner will need to work with the forester and logger to define what those jobs involve.

A forester has been educated to understand how the different parts of a forest (the trees, wildlife, soils, water, etc.) interact. Plus, the forester knows how to manipulate the forest, especially the vegetation, to make the forest meet the needs of the forest owner. A forester should be familiar with local laws, know where markets exist for different forest products, and be able to work with the forest owner to negotiate a contract for services such as timber harvesting, road construction, or boundary line surveys. The forester might also be knowledgeable about tax implications from timber revenue and how to satisfy any local harvesting ordinances. A logger will

be able to work with a forest owner and forester to harvest the trees marked by the forester and skid those logs to a landing. Loggers should have experience in directional felling, or dropping a tree to avoid damage to other trees. New York has a safety and productivity program called "Game of Logging"

that loggers and foresters benefit from taking. Anyone, of course, can select which trees to cut and which trees to leave, but not everyone can make that selection with the forest owner's objectives as the foremost consideration.

Through the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, forest own-



Landowners should ask what technical training and continuing education courses prospective loggers and foresters have taken. Courses like Game of Logging help loggers to work safely, productively, and with minimal damage to your forest.

ers can obtain a free visit from a public service forester. Forest owners should start with a service forester because they provide unbiased advice, a list of private sector foresters and a variety of other types of assistance. Most service foresters can provide information and develop forest stewardship plans, but are not involved in commercial timber sales. Therefore, a forest owner may need to work through a private sector forester, specifically a consulting forester or an industrial forester. Consultants are paid by the forest owners and the industrial forester is paid by a mill. Both can provide useful services to forest owners if the owner has completed a thorough evaluation of their services and talents.

When selecting a forester, the forest owner should proceed as though they were hiring an employee, although the legal relationship will typically be contractual. A forest owner should consult a number of sources to compile a list of potential foresters. These sources include lists from service foresters, professional forester associations, and recommendations from NYFOA and MFO volunteers. Then the forest owner should contact several foresters on the list to obtain resumes, names of recent clients, educational backgrounds, continuing education courses, certifications, and pricing information. Finally, interview several foresters and select one who meets your needs.

Once you have selected a forester, he or she can help you decide at what point in the future a harvest is appropriate. When the time is right for a harvest, your forester should be familiar with the qualities of local loggers and help you select one who has a good reputation for quality work, has equipment that is compatible with the topography and soils on your property, and who is available to work in the time frame that you set. You can also go visit a recent harvest and see the type of work of a prospective logger. Depending on the specifics of your harvest, a saw mill or pulp mill may buy the trees before the harvest and they will provide a logger to conduct the



Finding the correct forester will help ensure that the objectives of the owner will guide all decision making.

harvest. This will allow you to get your money before any harvesting occurs, which is typically the preferred option for forest owners. You and your forester can work with the mill to ensure the harvest meets your expectations. Sample timber sale contracts are available from your DEC service forester or on-line from Cornell University Cooperative Extension at www.ForestConnect.info via the publications link.

An important effort to ensure your needs are met is to be clear and prompt with your communication with the people working on your land. Know what you want the end product to produce and look like. Listen to the options available for your property. Because it is your property, you're in the driver's seat and you need to steer. 🚗

This response was adapted from a FAQ developed for the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry web page. Peter J. Smallidge, NYS Extension Forester and Director, Arnot Teaching and Research Forest, Cornell University Cooperative Extension, Ithaca, NY. pjs23@cornell.edu; 116 Fernow Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853. To learn about other frequently asked questions visit <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/stewardship/faq/index.html>



**Bruce E.
Robinson, Inc.**

Forestry Consultants

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

**1894 Camp Street Ext.
Jamestown, NY 14701-9239
E-mail: ber01@alltel.net**

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

New York State Tree Farm News

MICHAEL BURNS

New York Tree Farm was pleased to once again partner with our co-sponsors — NYFOA, ESFPA & NYS DEC — to distribute tree seedlings in coffee mugs to members of the State legislature. The give away has been a part of Arbor Day, Earth Day or Forestry Awareness Day celebrations for nearly 20 years.



Rod Jones (Northeast Timber Services, Walton, NY) has made the event a family tradition by bringing his children to the Capitol each year to make the personal presentations in each Senator and Assemblyperson's office.

The personal stories of where the legislators and staff have planted the trees and how they have cared for them throughout their years really helps to reinforce the connection between the lawmakers in Albany and those of us who's hobby, passion, or obsession is caring for the forest. Now that I work in Albany and have the opportunity to speak with legislators on occasion, it is a great icebreaker to simply



Future Tree Farmers (from left) Megan Crawford, Annie Jones, Caitlin Jones and Lauren Jones present a Norway spruce seedling to Assemblyman Jack Quinn of Buffalo.

introduce myself as “New York Tree Farm Chair, we’re the ones who bring you the trees every year.” Since NYFOA has supported this project since its inception, make sure you take credit for it as well. If you have an opportunity this summer to speak to your Senator or Assemblyperson at a fair or church dinner, introduce yourself as “NYFOA member, we’re the ones who bring you the trees every spring.”

Thank you for supporting our efforts by sponsoring and participating in Forestry Awareness Day, but more importantly thank you for the good work that you do in your forest that usually goes unrecognized. 🌲

Mike Burns is Chair of the NYS Tree Farm Committee.

HALE FORESTRY COMPANY

610 East Main Street, Westfield, PA 16950

Professional Forestry Consulting
Forest Resource Management Services

TIMBER SALES
MANAGEMENT PLAN

APPRAISALS
INVENTORIES

Michael L. Hale

Toll Free (877)-HALEFOR or (814) 367-5915
email halefor@verizon.net

Fax (814) 367-5919

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

New York State Maple

- The production of maple syrup, and associated value-added products, is an important agricultural industry in New York State.
- Maple production contributes to local rural economies and provides supplemental income to farmers and forest land owners. In 2005, there were 1,485 producers with 100 or more taps.
- New York State maple production, valued at nearly \$7.2 million in 2004, represents about one-sixth of the total production in the U.S.
- New York is the third largest maple producer in the nation behind Vermont and Maine.

The mission of the New York State Maple Producers Association is to support the maple products industry in New York State and promote its long-term viability.

Do you own a sugarbush? Join NYSMPA today. Working together we can make things happen.



New York State Maple Producers Association, Inc.
607.535.9790
www.nysmaple.com



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!

The Zik family submitted this photograph. The picture shows their kids, Jillian and Adam, on a hike this past winter on their property in Greenfield Center, New York, just outside of Saratoga.

Why should we plant a tree?

Springtime is a great time to plant a tree. Plants are just beginning to grow; new roots are pushing through the soil collecting water and nutrients and sending them up to the leaves unfurling in the sky. The weather is cool enough, and usually wet enough, that newly planted trees won't dry out, but warm enough to spur a tree to grow. The ground has been softened by rain and snow, making it easy for us to dig and for the roots to spread far into the soil.

Buy why do we bother to plant trees? Won't they just grow on their own?

It's true that nature will restock her woods with trees; seeds drop from above in the summer and fall and sprout when the ground is warm enough in the spring. But often we want to speed up this process, or put trees where there are no trees, so we plant them.

But why should I plant a tree? Is it important?

Trees provide us with all sorts of benefits. They shade us from the sun, provide food for us and animals to eat, give us wood and wood products, filter out pollution by cleaning our air and water, prevent erosion by holding



the soil in place, they look nice in our landscapes, and they can actually make us feel better.

See if you can find trees serving in different rolls. Look for trees that are:

- Providing food for wildlife
- Providing a home for wildlife
- Shading a home or business
- Providing food or other products for people
- Acting as screens that protect us from wind or noise or that are blocking a view

- Looking nice in a landscape
- Holding back a streambank

While you're out hunting for trees, keep an eye out for a good spot to plant a new tree. Sunny locations that have enough good soil and space for the tree to mature are best. This may be in your yard or the park down the road, or maybe at your school. See what you can do to plant at least one tree a year.

Be sure to plant trees in good planting holes, very wide and not too deep, and water them thoroughly. For complete planting details go to <http://www.treesaregood.com/>. Correct planting will help that tree live a long, beneficial life. 🌱

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

SAF Certified

MICHAEL C. GREASON
FORESTRY SERVICES

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

The Economic Reality of Small Woodlots

JOHN SULLIVAN

The following article was adapted from remarks given at a panel on New York's Forests and the Economy held during Forestry Awareness Day, March 19 in Albany.

We in New York boast about our numbers, which are pretty impressive. We have more than 15 million acres of forest land, and a forest-based economy that generates billions of dollars and tens of thousands of jobs. And the amazing truth is that 13 million acres of the state's woodlands are private non-industrial forests, that is — they are owned by people like us. No wonder we hear people say things like, "The future of the forest economy lies in the hands of all those private non-industrial forest owners."

But we are not so well off as the numbers seem to indicate. Here are some other numbers:

- About 1.3 million acres of that 13 million acre private, non-industrial forest is actively managed. That's only 10 per cent.
- There are 500,000 landowners, but only 2,000 members of the Tree Farm system.
- There is an even smaller number of private woodlots in the state that enjoy FSC or AFS certification.
- And NYFOA has just about 2,000 members.

So I see a heck of a disconnect between what we say about the future and what do to make it come true, and it all comes down to the simple fact that we need government policies and private actions that do a better job of encouraging people to manage their woodlots. It is that simple, and that difficult.

Let's talk first about government. We

have an administration in Albany that has said it wants to breathe life into the upstate economy.

One of the first things it can do is pass legislation that will reduce the tax burden for forest owners and encourage woodlot management, in other words, link property tax relief to a management plan. But it has to do it in a way that people want to take part. The present tax law (Section 480-A) does that, but with so many restrictions that most potential participants don't want any part of it.

But if you don't participate, you are stuck in a system that not only does not encourage sustainable management, but that may force a sale and subdivision of the property, leading to fragmentation. Pressures on local government have led to what's called a "Tree Tax" in some places — a tax that rewards people if they clear-cut their land and eliminate the trees. In other places, like the Adirondacks, we have instead what I call the Subdivision Tax. This means woodlots are assessed not as forest land,

but as subdivisions waiting to happen. It is outrageous, but not unusual, for forest lands to be assessed at \$1,000 and \$2,000 per acre and sometimes more. Forestlands — not camps or lakefront. The taxes are equally outrageous, and beyond the reach of many families who have lived in the countryside for years. So they subdivide and sell.

The resulting fragmentation is a reality today — 13 million acres is owned by 500,000 people. That's an average of 26 acres per woodlot, and the average is decreasing daily. Local government, by the way, can do its part by developing land use plans and enacting sensible zoning regulations.

Next, government must restore at least some of the technical help it used to offer to woodland owners. Thirty years ago I could expect ready assistance from the Cornell Cooperative Extension, from one of three local DEC foresters and two industry-sponsored Landowner Assistance Programs. I could get cash from federal programs to do planning and conduct improvement work.

This year, I am told, there are Cooperative Extension offices with a forestry component in just 18 out of 52 counties. In Warrensburg, one extension forestry specialist covers three counties. Likewise, one local DEC forester covers three counties. There are no Landowner

Susan J. Keister, L.L.C.

Forestry Consulting and Environmental Management Services

Per diem based fee structure for bid sales = no commissions

NYS-DEC Cooperating Consulting Forester SAF Certified, WBE

Services Include:

Management Plans

- FLEP
- 480a

Commercial Timber Harvests/Valuations

- High Quality Hardwoods
- Low Grade Hardwoods
- Softwoods

Timber Stand Improvement

- Marking & Treatment

Damage Appraisals

- Strategy and Advice
- Valuations & Stump Cruises

New!

Sirex Wasp Response Strategies

- Analysis and Prescription
- Non-Commercial Timber Stand Improvement Work

FLEP cost-sharing may be available

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

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

Assistance Programs. And the current federal Farm Bill would reduce, redirect or eliminate nearly all funds to help forest land owners.


If this is the future of the forest economy, God help us.

The forest products industry, and we as landowners, can also step up to the plate. For instance, we can bring the personal touch back to providing help to forest owners, especially those who are new to the game. I know from my own experience that few things are more helpful than face-to-face contact with experienced people who can share their knowledge, spontaneously suggest action, or subtly shame you into doing what you need to do. With service foresters stretched thin, there isn't much time for that. So why don't the Tree Farm System, NYFOA and the Master Forest Owners get together, sharpen their grant-writing pencils and expand MFO activities in New York. MFOs aren't trained foresters, but they are knowledgeable and can be very helpful, especially in getting people started on the right track.

Industry can also help by remembering the small landowner in its planning. Renewable energy is a hot item these days, and growing and mowing willow fiber is a great idea. But so is gathering and chipping low-grade tree stems on some of those 500,000 woodlots, and turning them into pellets or bio fuels. There are some real logistical issues to be handled, but they are worth handling.


We need marketing help. Small local sawmills seem to have disappeared, and portable mills don't really fill the gap. Where can we sell a half-load of logs? We need a way to aggregate the products from smaller woodlots, to attract more distant buyers and better prices.

Finally, let's not forget the big picture. We have a place in the economy, but also in society as a whole. I have never met a stranger who hasn't expressed envy at what I do because, they usually say, "you can go out and walk in the woods any time you want." That's true. Even city folks think a walk in the woods is good for you. And it is wonderful that they think it is something to be envied.

We owe it to those people to keep it up, to make sure that land owners receive the help and encouragement they need to become something more important – land stewards. 

This opinion piece was written by John Sullivan the 2005 NYS Tree Farmer of the year and NYFOA board member. John owns the 350-acre Kipp Mountain Tree Farm in Chestertown, NY. A Tree Farm for 30 years, Kipp Mountain has also been FSC Certified since 2002.

Jim Allen
Forester

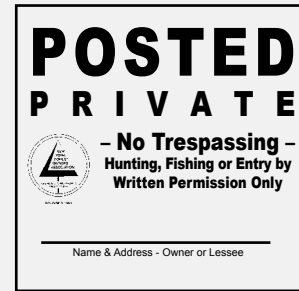


ALLEN FORESTRY
Forest Mgmt. Services

518-260-3395
15 Sly Pond Road
Fort Ann, NY 12827

Free Timber Appraisals
Property Management
Wildlife Management

NYFOA POSTED SIGN ORDER FORM



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)	\$.50	_____	\$ _____
Aluminum (.012 gauge)	\$.75	_____	\$ _____
<i>Add Name and Address to Sign</i>			
\$5.00 Set up cost per address		\$5.00	_____
Plus \$.05 per sign		_____	_____
Handling Cost	\$5.00 per order		\$5.00
Shipping Cost**			\$ _____
TOTAL COST OF ORDER			\$ _____

Please specify Name and Address to be printed on signs:

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

Mailing Address

(UPS Shipping Address if different from mailing address)

Name: _____

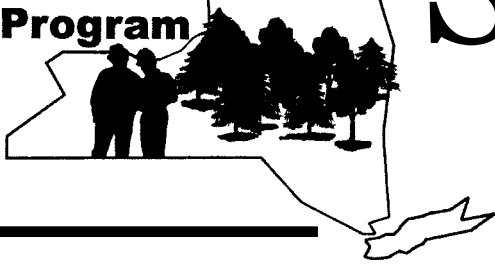
Address: _____

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

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

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

**NY Master Forest
Owner/COVERTS
Program**



Stories from the Woods

JACK MCSHANE

The goal of the MFO/COVERTS Program is to provide private forest owners with the information and encouragement necessary to manage their forests to enhance ownership satisfaction.

Jack McShane became a MFO volunteer during the 2nd year of the NY MFO Program in 1992. Over the years he has visited scores of woodlots at the bequest of forest owners. Jack's keen interest, knowledge, and experience in wildlife habitat management on his 300+ acres in the Catskills makes him a great resource for area forest owners. The MFO Volunteer Program and Cornell Cooperative Extension wish to thank Jack and his wife Nancy for their support and involvement in educational programs on behalf of fellow forest owners.

As a 1992 graduate of the NY Master Forest Owner/COVERTS Volunteer course, I have encountered and commiserated with many forest landowners both

old and new. Many have expected me to know everything about the forest and be an expert on all flora and fauna and, of course I am not. But never-the-less I am a very Enthusiastic Forest Owner who has learned a lot and I am still improving! I have found that I do have a LITTLE more forest knowledge than the average new landowner. I graduated from the NYS Ranger School class of 1961, so much of my forestry and surveying knowledge was pretty out dated. The MFO program helped update me and sparked a renewed interest in learning and helping others.

This said, I have always been delighted to see the keen interest in good stewardship expressed by most landowners on my MFO visits. I do my best to give good

advice and information on options and where to get further information relating to good land stewardship. My personal interest in forest ownership tends to focus on wildlife and wildlife management. So, I'll share with you some of the interesting specific and general questions and perspectives I have come across in my MFO career.

Forest owners come from all walks of life and are captivated by a wide variety of interests and concerns. A topic that is fairly common among Catskill residents is that of the mountain lion. It's a great topic to ponder and captures the imagination of lots of people, myself included! For example, I was once asked while on a woods visit, "Jack, what do I do if I encounter a mountain lion?" My unrehearsed reply (we didn't cover that one in the MFO training) was something like, "Ehh, well, if you have a camera handy get a photo I would love to see it. If you have no camera, maintain a handle on your composure and consider yourself extremely lucky to see (or envision) a long-time extirpated species. It is my understanding that mountain lions are emboldened by folks who lack composure in their presence."

In deference to some very reliable people who have told me that they have seen one (they may in fact have), the DEC explains it this way: there may be a few around here in the Catskills but, they have yet to see proof (i.e., scat, tracks, picture, or a prey deer raked over with leaves). There is the possibility that some have been released illegally by purchasers of kittens on the black market and find them unmanageable when mature. Cats adapt well to the wild and moun-



Jack McShane explaining his habitat objectives to workshop participants regarding a small clear cut he conducted on his property in Delaware County.



This deer enclosure shows the dramatic effect deer browsing has on regeneration. The aspen on the inside are more than 25 feet tall and 10 years old.

tain lions have no predator other than ourselves, so who knows, maybe even released animals may someday establish a breeding population?

I am a confirmed and dedicated hunter. Of course many forest owners are not and are quite adamant about their distaste for the sport. Inevitably the topic of hunting comes up in the course of most woods visits and consequently I am compelled to politely defend my position and respect theirs (no matter which side of the issue they come down on). I remember one owner who took me to task on the issue with a statement something like the following. "Jack, you mentioned that you are a bow hunter and that you kill deer. I think this is terrible. I feed those lovely animals and we really get along, in fact our relationship is such that I consider myself a deer whisperer". Well, I really can't remember

my response to that one, but as you can imagine, the concept of being a deer whisperer is as foreign to me as being a hunter was to that person. Comments like these make great fodder for conversations that require some levity.

As the years have passed, albeit much too rapidly, I have slowed my visits to others' properties. Instead, I have opened my land, 371 acres in the town of Andes in Delaware County, for nature walks for kids and woods walks sponsored by forestry and environmental organizations such as, NY Forest Owners Assoc., Catskill Forest Assoc., Cornell Extension, and the Watershed Agricultural Council. These seem to be quite beneficial as I have been able to show in real time and place those management practices that are some times difficult to describe on another's land. Another real benefit is to show the result of some practices that were put in place many years ago. Good examples are: crop tree management where the crop trees show accelerated growth, and of course tree plantings that are now 20 feet tall. My deer enclosures that have now been in place 10 years show vividly the negative impact a high deer population has on forest regeneration. One of the enclosures erected in an old pasture has trees (trembling aspen, a pioneer species) that are 20-25 feet tall now and in the surrounding pasture there is only knee-high brush (stuff unpalatable to deer). This dramatic phenomenon prompts a variety of comments, including, "I guess you should really shoot more deer (this from an anti-hunter)" and "You mow the area outside the enclosure don't you? Well, the deer are doing the mowing for you now!" Point well taken!

Many new forest landowners are from urban areas where anti-hunting senti-

ment runs high. This course takes time to adjust to the reality of the natural world. For example, I was asked to give a short talk as an MFO volunteer, on managing forests for wildlife at a series of workshops, called Forestry Fridays, hosted by Cornell Extension Educator Janet Aldrich. I included in my talk the use of hunting as a management tool and that I was a hunter. A person in the audience stood up and vehemently expressed her opinion that the reason why I did all these things to attract wildlife was so that I could just go shoot them! As you can imagine, that statement got me started. Fortunately the workshop format was meant to be an educational forum and I had the privilege to respond. I explained that my goal as a forest owner was to enhance my woods to attract a variety of wildlife for the sake of conserving biodiversity. A well managed forest is a healthy and functioning ecosystem that contains many species, both prey and predator. As far as hunting goes, I participate in the balance of nature as a predator that benefits from an abundance of prey species. I went on to say that many people believe that killing is wrong but hunting is certainly NOT all about killing. A true hunter enjoys not only being a participant in nature, but also being a keen observer thereof. I kill so that I might hunt. I told her that as an example, after having seen tracks of the elusive fisher on my property for close to fifteen years I was lucky to actually call one in to my bow stand and have a brief eye to eye encounter before it disappeared. This made my day without having to kill anything! She countered with, "Well had you the chance you would have shot it right"? My reply was, "No, it being a top predator like myself, I extended the professional courtesy of be-

continued on page 19

For more information on:

Many forestry and wildlife management publications that are downloadable as .pdf files.

<http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/info/pubs/>

Calendar

July 14: Northern Refresher. Uihlein Sugar Maple Research & Extension Field Station, Lake Place, NY. Hosted by Bill Scripser ('01) and Mike Farrel, Director of the field station.

July 20-21: Arnot Forest Refresher. Topics presented by the 2007 Arnot Forest Summer Interns.

August 4: Western Refresher. Cattaraugus, NY. Hosted by Jeff Rupp ('06). Topics to include biodiversity of western NY and insect pests.

September 19 - 23: Arnot Forest. New MFO Volunteer Training.

STILL NEED a volunteer to host the Eastern Refresher for this summer or early fall. Call Gary Goff, MFO Program Coordinator at 607-255-2824.

Sponsors of the MFO Program include: The Ruffed Grouse Society, New York Forest Owners Association, NYS-DEC Div. of Lands & Forests, The Robert H. Wentorf, Jr. Foundation, USDA Renewable Resources Extension Program, and Cornell Cooperative Extension.

NYFOA AWARDS

Heiberg Memorial Award Presented to Jim Beil



Jim Beil (left) receives the Heiberg Memorial Award from NYFOA president Alan White.

The Heiberg Memorial Award, memorializing Svend O. Heiberg, a world-renowned professor at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, recognizes outstanding contributions to forestry and conservation in New York. Heiberg was one of the original founders of the New York Forest Owners Association in 1962. The award was presented to Jim Beil at the Association's annual membership meeting held Saturday, February 24 during the New York Farm Show on the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse.

Jim Beil has contributed much to forestry in New York State and exemplifies the spirit of the Heiberg Memorial Award. Like the late Svend Heiberg, Jim can operate at a very high theoretical level yet is also very practical and avid in getting a job completed.

After graduating from the SUNY

College of Forestry and serving a stint in the US Army Jim went to work with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. He served as a field forester in western New York and then from many years as Assistant Director of the Department's Division of Lands and Forests in Albany. Jim has been active in working with numerous groups and programs. He was instrumental in getting the New York City agreement with the Watershed Towns and averting a massive land acquisition program or having New York City build a multibillion dollar filtration plant.

Jim helped put New York forestry programs firmly on the map by chairing the Local Arrangement Committee of Society of American Foresters national convention in Buffalo in 2003. He also served on the Board of Directors of the 7th American Forestry Congress. Jim has always felt that young people and diverse ethnic groups must be brought into the mainstream of forestry and has worked tirelessly in that regard. He is chair of the National Society of American Foresters Working Group on Cultural Diversity.

Jim has also worked with local groups and is Co-Chair of a local environmental group focused on women and minorities, a Board Member for Albany County Coop. Extension, and a Board Member of the Albany Boys & Girls Club. He has truly brought forestry to the people and as he says, "City kids and natural resources sciences are his passions" He is also sec-

retary of the Capital District chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association and a Master Forest Owner. ▲

Heiberg Award Recipients

1967	David B. Cook
1968	Floyd Carlson
1969	Mike Demeree
1970	No Award
1971	Fred Winch, Jr.
1972	John Stock
1973	Robert M. Ford
1974	C. Eugene Farnsworth
1975	Alex Dickson
1976	Edward W. Littlefield
1977	Maurine Postley
1978	Ralph Nyland
1979	Fred C. Simmons
1980	Dr. William Harlow
1981	Curtis H. Bauer
1982	Neil B. Gutches
1983	David W. Taber
1984	John W. Kelley
1985	Robert G. Potter
1986	Karen B. Richards
1987	Henry G. Williams
1988	Robert M. Sand
1989	Willard G. Ives
1990	Ross S. Whaley
1991	Robert S. Stegemann
1992	Bonnie & Don Colton
1993	Michael C. Greason
1994	Douglas C. Allen
1995	John C. Marchant
1996	Harriet & John Hamilton
1997	Vernon C. Hudson
1998	Peter S. Levatic
1999	James E. Coufal
2000	James P. Lassoie
2001	John T. Hastings
2002	Albert W. Brown
2003	David J. Colligan
2004	Jack McShane
2005	Peter Smallidge
2006	Cotton-Hanlon
2007	Jim Beil

Outstanding Service Award Presented to Ron Pedersen



Ron Pedersen (left) receives the NYFOA Service Award from Hugh Canham.

The New York Forest Owners Association presented its Outstanding Service Award for 2007 to Ronald Pedersen of Latham, New York.

The award recognizes outstanding service to the Association membership.

Ronald Pedersen, has served the cause of New York forestry for decades and has been a leader in NYFOA both at the state level and in his own Capital District chapter.

He started his government career in New York as a Tax Analyst and then worked on Governor Rockefeller's staff. In 1971 he served as First Deputy Commissioner in the newly formed New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. He next went to the New York State Senate where he was program secretary to the Majority leader, retiring in the 1990's.

Throughout his career he was a strong advocate for intelligent professional forestry and was active in many other organizations including the Empire State Forest Products Association, and New York Tree Farm system.

Ron was president of the New York Forest Owners Association for 6 years. During his presidency NYFOA instituted several changes: the magazine took on a new look, revised bylaws were enacted, and plans were laid for

employment of an Executive Director.

He continues to maintain a high level of activity in NYFOA recently chairing the membership committee where ambitious plans have been developed to move NYFOA to a much higher level of membership. He is active in Forestry Awareness Day, and was an active member of the advisory committee on the recently enacted updated timber theft laws. Indeed, he has been working very hard to get increased attention to timber theft and is working with legislators and others to get increased funding for education of both law

continued on page 18

Outstanding Service Award Recipients

1978	Emiel Palmer
1979	Ken Eberly
1980	Helen Varian
1981	J. Lewis Dumond
1982	Lloyd Strombeck
1983	Evelyn Stock
1984	Dorothy Wertheimer
1985	David H. Hanaburgh
1986	A. W. Roberts, Jr.
1987	Howard O. Ward
1988	Mary & Stuart McCarty
1989	Alan R. Knight
1990	Earl Pfarner
1991	Helen & John Marchant
1992	Richard J. Fox
1993	Wesley E. Suhr
1994	Alfred B. Signor
1995	Betty & Don Wagner
1996	Betty Densmore
1997	Norman Richards
1998	Charles P. Mowatt
1999	Eileen and Dale Schaefer
2000	Erwin and Polly Fullerton
2001	Billy Morris
2002	Donald G. Brown
2003	Henry S. Kernan
2004	Hugh & Janet Canham
2005	Jerry Michael
2006	John Druke
2007	Ron Pedersen

NYFOA's Chapter Activity Award

The NYFOA Chapter Activity Awards were presented at the NYFOA annual meeting on February 24, 2007. This award thanks a volunteer individual or couple from each chapter for helping the Chapter to operate in reaching members and other private forest owner outreach in the area. Below is a listing of each award recipient:

LHC – Keith Hedgecock

Keith has helped to plan for and participated in all three of the LHC workshops/woodswalks in 2006; and is also



serving on the state MFO/NYFOA liaison committee. Keith is an active MFO and involved with Earth Day forestry awareness at his workplace, IBM. Keith will become the new LHC chair for 2007-08.

CNY – Charley Porter

Charley is a Senior DEC Forester who works out of the Cortland office and is responsible for Onondaga and Oswego counties. He



works on the Farm Show organizing committee. He has been instrumental in several activities in the CNY Chapter including numerous woodswalks, chapter yearly picnics, and the Farm Show. He can always be counted on to do whatever he commits to, and is not shy to stand tall for new ideas.

CDC - Phillip Walton

continued on page 18

Lady Beetles – an important family of beneficial insects

DOUGLAS C. ALLEN

Sometimes referred to as ladybugs or ladybirds, these brightly colored beetles are one of the most easily recognized and well known groups of insects. In our childhood, most of us were familiar with couplet:

*“ladybug, ladybug fly away home,
your house is on fire, your children
will burn”*

This saying originated years ago and is based on the fact that after hops were harvested it was customary to burn the vines in order to clear the fields for the next planting and to destroy certain insect pests. Unfortunately, at the same time these fires destroyed the young of beneficial lady beetles that were attached to the vines.

Both the adults and larval stages

of most lady beetles are very efficient predators of many soft bodied insects, especially crop pests like aphids, scales and mealy bugs. For example, it has been demonstrated that the larval stages of a certain species of lady beetle consume 90 adults and 3,000 young of a scale insect during their lifetime. The fully grown larva of a relatively large species may consume as many as 50 aphids a day. This is pretty impressive given that females of many of our larger species of lady beetles will deposit 500 to 1,000 eggs over a period of several weeks during the growing season.

The life cycle of most of the 475 or so species of lady beetle (also called coccinellids, cox-i-nell-ids, because they belong to the family Coccinellidae, cox-i-nell-i-dee)



Figure 2. An adult lady beetle.

in North America begins when the overwintering adults emerge in early summer. One of the most interesting behavioral characteristics of many lady beetles is the tendency for adults to overwinter (“hibernate”) in large numbers (Fig. 1), often at locations or elevations where the aggregating adults of many western species are covered by snow for long periods.

The Multicolored Asian Lady Beetle, for example, has become a nuisance throughout New York State and adjacent locations, because adults tend to migrate in the fall and congregate in homes, wood piles and other protected locations. This species was purposely introduced into the United States on several occasions to control aphids on agricultural crops, mainly in the south and west. In recent years, however, it has spread throughout the northeast. Like most non-native insects, it thrives in the absence of natural enemies that co-evolved with it in its native land. This, along with the fact that North America provides plentiful prey and



Figure 1. An aggregation of lady beetles over-wintering in the Sierra Nevada mountains.

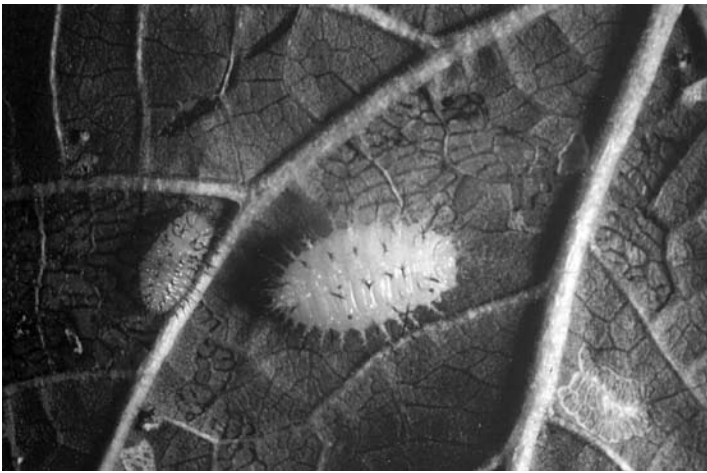


Figure 3. Coccinellid larvae.

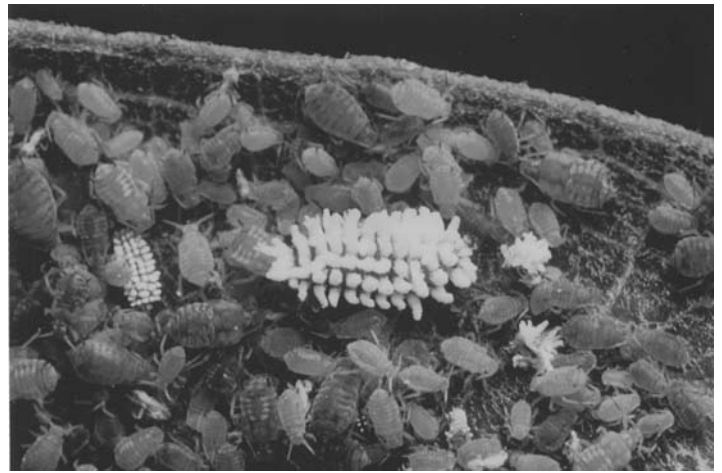


Figure 4. Coccinellid larvae.

suitable climate, has allowed its population density to sky rocket.

Most adult lady beetles are oval, convex, and shiny. Many species are brightly colored with a series of spots that may vary in size and number (Fig. 2). Both color and spotting can be quite variable for a species, and neither characteristic can always be relied on for identification.

Eggs of species that prey on aphids are usually deposited on end (that is, aligned vertically) in small clusters attached to host foliage. Lady beetles that feed on soft-bodied scale insects and mealybugs generally deposit their eggs singly or in small groups adjacent to the sessile host or, in the case of soft-bodied scales, beneath a cast skin.

Coccinellid larvae are found on foliage along with the eggs and adults. They are bizarre looking creatures with well developed legs and mouthparts (Figs. 3-5). The fleshy body is often covered with spines, hairs or tubercles that give many species the look of an alligator! When fully grown, many larvae also are brightly colored. The larva in Fig. 3 is a species that is not predaceous on other insects but, in fact, is an agricultural pest known as the Mexican Bean Beetle. Where it occurs, it feeds

on such plants as lima beans (in this case, I would consider it a *beneficial* insect!) and all kinds of snap beans. The weird looking larva in Fig. 4 is foraging through a colony of aphids. The immature stages of this species excrete a waxy substance that protects them from some of their own natural enemies and, in some situations, this covering serves as a type of camouflage that helps to make it less conspicuous to its prey.

Lady beetles are important natural enemies of many native insects and combine with other predators to help keep populations of these potential pests under control (natural control). Additionally, characteristics such as host specificity, high reproductive ability and keen searching behavior make them attractive control agents for certain introduced or exotic pests (biological control). For example, since the 1980s the hemlock woolly adelgid has been responsible for extensive hemlock mortality in the northeastern United States. This Asian insect is a major threat to the ecological importance and economic value associated with eastern hemlock in many forest types. For the past ten years or so, scientists have scoured Japan and China looking for promising natural enemies in its regions

of origin. Several coccinellids have been successfully introduced and, hopefully, will establish and play a key role in controlling this pest. ♀

This is the 89th 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 5. Serpentine larval galleries.

Outstanding Chapter Awards (continued)

Phil has served for many years as the chapter's treasurer and has always done a wonderful job. He regularly attends our steering committee meetings, woods walks and events. Phil is a great asset to our chapter and we are all greatly appreciative of his volunteer efforts.

AFC - Charles and Marian Mowatt

Charlie and Marian were instrumental in starting both the Allegheny Foothills and Western Finger Lakes Chapters of NYFOA.



Charlie also served as the NYFOA Board of Directors Chapter Representative for several years. He has been a Master Forest Owner (MFO) since 1999.

Some projects the Mowatts have worked on include a two year demonstration in conjunction with Cornell University, using goats to eliminate unwanted vegetation in woodlots. Another project is the annual AFC nut collection. Charlie, with Marian's support, has organized, supervised and helped collect nuts for this fund raiser for over 15 years. They have hosted several woodwalks on their two forested properties. They have also hosted AFC Christmas parties and picnics several times. Charlie has taken on the responsibility of setting up and manning the NYFOA information booth in many locations such as the Rural Landowners Workshops and county fairs.

Charlie and Marian continue to participate in all the activities of the AFC Chapter and NYFOA.

NAC - Don Brown

Don has been the NAC Treasurer for many years. He has always been a very active participant in all aspects of the NAC program. A retired NYS DEC Forester from St. Lawrence County Don has a vast knowledge of

the area but more importantly the landowners themselves. We cannot imagine the number of folks that Don has had an impact on in his tenure as both a DEC Forester and active member of NYFOA. He certainly deserves this award. Although Don will remain a member of NYFOA, he is relinquishing his treasurer position this year. We thank Don greatly for his work with NYFOA.

WFL - Richard Dennison

Dick joined the WFL Chapter of NYFOA in 1990 and soon became an active member by serving on the Board of Directors while learning to manage his woodlot. He has always volunteered at Empire Farm & Field Days in Seneca Falls, currently holds the position of Chapter Secretary, and has been managing the Video Library for many years. Dick was instrumental in planning and organizing our First Annual Chapter Dinner Meeting which was a great success with over 70 members in attendance. We can always count on Dick to do an outstanding job on whatever he commits his time and talents to. Thank you Dick for all your volunteer efforts in the WFL Chapter and NYFOA!



SAC- Jill Cornell

Jill has been a regular participant in our planning meetings and was always very helpful. Some of the things she has done include: 2004 SAC Chair; 2002 & 2003 SAC Vice Chair; Organization Committee for the 1997 & 98 Family Forest Fairs; and Organization Committee for the 2000 Fall Conference at Pack Forest. She has also contributed articles to the SAC Newsletter, has volunteered with the County Fairs in Washington and Saratoga counties, worked at the Woodworkers Show in Saratoga and helped arrange

woodwalks. In addition, she has been involved with Quality Deer Management.

SOT - Kevin Mathers

Kevin works as an Extension Educator with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County, and is responsible for environmental and natural resources programs. Kevin has been instrumental in planning and delivering educational programs related to forest stewardship for many years. He serves on the Southern Tier Chapter's Steering Committee and as Co-Chair of the Program Committee. Kevin also actively promotes and supports the Master Forest Owner Volunteer Program. He assigns MFO's to perform requested woodlot visits, and coaches volunteer MFO's as required. Thanks largely to Kevin's efforts, Broome County has performed more on-site educational visits by MFO Volunteers than any other County in the state for the last several years. Kevin's contributions toward enlightened forest stewardship exceed his responsibilities within Broome County, and epitomize the level of support that NYFOA seeks from Cornell Cooperative Extension.

SFL - Don Schaufler

Outstanding Service Award (continued)

enforcement persons and forest owners on timber theft issues.

His property in Broome County serves as another showplace of what is possible on abandoned farmland with over 50 years of sustainable management. He and his wife Peggy have taken some forward-looking steps in management and obtaining a conservation easement that will insure the property remains as productive forest and open space. They have hosted several NYFOA woods walks. 🌲

Stories from the Woods
(continued)

ing very satisfied with just a simple close-up encounter"! Good argument can be of great benefit to both parties, each gaining insight into perspectives other than their own. I doubt if our exchange of opinions influenced either of us, but hopefully others in the audience learned a little something and had the opportunity to examine their own thoughts on the subject.

Taken together, my experiences as a MFO have been extremely rewarding. I have learned a lot and truly believe that some have learned from me. Many friendships have been made.

Living in the woods, I am blessed with almost constant interactions with wildlife. Some events are very rare and dramatic (as with the fisher), while others are really quite mundane and common place. All are interesting however, and if I take the time to reflect, are very meaningful! Here are a couple observations that show what I mean.

Just recently I have seen a cottontail rabbit under my bird feeder. Its existence is probably due to the refuge provided by a nearby brush pile constructed last year; this being the first one sighted in three years. I blame the population decline on the upswing of the coyote population (not mountain lions). Of course another culprit could be the mature bald eagle that landed in a large tree on the property across the road the other day. I hope it finds a nesting site. I presume the cottontail does not. And on another day, I spotted a northern shrike chasing a single chickadee after raising havoc amongst the feeder crew; this only the third sighting of this rare predator bird in my life time. It doesn't get any better than this!

Finally, a favorite quote from a French entomologist Jean-Henri Fabre, of the late 1800s; "When we lack the society of our fellow men, we take refuge in that of animals and To appoint oneself, in a way, an inspector of the forest for many years in succession, and for long seasons, means joining a not overcrowded profession. No matter; the meditative mind returns from that school fully satisfied." 🌲

Whose Forest Is This?

BOB BEYFUSS

I was sitting out in my forest last fall during deer season, leaning against a maple tree, hoping a buck would wander by and thinking about how fortunate I am to own this 25 acres or so of woodland.

Suddenly the thought occurred to me that I did not own this forest anymore than the buck I was hoping would wander by owns it. Yes, it is true that I have temporary control over what happens to these woods to a certain extent and I can decide to cut down any trees I feel like but if true ownership belongs to the residents then I am forced to admit

that I am very low on the "ownership" list. This forest exists both with me and without me and the without me part is most intriguing.

The black bear that wanders through here every so often, depositing his waste and flipping over rocks that I could not possibly lift does not care who pays the taxes on his bathroom. The countless songbirds feeding on the nuts, seeds and berries from "my" trees and shrubs would not consider paying me a dime for their room and board. The ruffed grouse drumming away in the springtime like a crazed musician searching for a beat is not aware that I own the log he is showing off his stuff on. Even the tent caterpillars who ate most of the leaves off the trees last summer have clearly demonstrated how unimportant I am to their existence.

The thought that some frail human in an artificial structure on the edge of the woods is in charge must amuse the turkeys who seem to be able to make themselves invisible here for a few weeks each spring and fall. I don't know if coyotes can laugh, but if they can, they must crack up every time they smell or hear this oversized and clumsy mammal who needs shotguns and rifles to procure

a meal. The grey squirrels who routinely scold me verbally as I sit quietly do not realize that I am their landlord and I should be treated with more respect.

"But I own this 25 acres of forest" I think, as the thought becomes even more and more abstract. Does the weasel searching the creek bed for food from my property to my neighbor's property to my other neighbor's property realize that he is guilty of multiple trespassing? My neighbors would surely realize this and being the good people they are, they would not mind but future neighbors might.

So I am forced to conclude that I do not and cannot really "own" this forest any more than the deer, bears, raccoons, other mammals, birds, insects, amphibians, fungi and plants own it. Rather than distressing me, as the thought of suddenly not owning something I thought I owned might do, I feel a sense of responsibility to the true inhabitants of the forest. I am the temporary caretaker of their forest and I have an awesome responsibility to them. I can manage this forest for my own special interests, but it turns out that my interests are pretty much the same as theirs.

NYFOA can help you learn how to manage your forest for your own special interests but in the long run, your interests will benefit the entire community. Management is certainly not a bad thing for even, seemingly, wild ecosystems. We can work with you and you in turn can work with Nature but don't expect any thanks from the bluebird family living in the box you put up last summer. Seeing and hearing a bluebird in the springtime is all the reward I need. 🌲

This article originally appeared as a Weekly Gardening Tip for the week beginning December 11, 2006 by Bob Beyfuss Cornell Cooperative Extension of Greene County



BLUEBERRY RIDGE
STEWARDSHIP
SERVICES,
LLC

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

Contact: Lawrence E. Howard, Esq.
(518) 674-4408 Fax: (518) 674-3015
E-mail: BR55@albany.net



FORECON INC.

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



Forestry
Consulting
Services

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

1890 E. Main Street, Falconer, NY 14733 716-664-5602
22½ Groton Avenue, Cortland, NY 13045 607-753-3113
90 East Front Street, Hancock, NY 13783 607-637-4466

Visit Our Website: www.foreconinc.com



Future Forest
Consulting, Inc.

DEC Cooperating Forest Consultants
Corey Figueiredo and Scott Graham

- FOREST PRODUCT MARKING & MARKETING
- MANAGEMENT PLANS
- FOREST ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN
- FOREST TAXATION PLANNING
- NON-COMMERCIAL FOREST IMPROVEMENT FOR TIMBER, WILDLIFE
- TIMBER APPRAISALS
- SUGARBUSH MANAGEMENT
- BOUNDARY MAINTENANCE
- TREE PLANTING
- WETLAND DESIGN
- TIMBER TRESPASS APPRAISALS
- HERBICIDE APPLICATIONS

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

www.futureforestinc.com

Phone: 585-374-2799 7812 Hunts Hollow Rd.
FAX: 585-374-2595 Naples, NY 14512

E-mail: futureforest@aol.com

Introducing

TREE PRO's
Miracle Tube
A seamless Tree Shelter



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

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

TREE PRO's original design is still available.

Free sample 800-875-8071

3180 W. 250 N. West Lafayette, IN 47906

treepro.com

Member Profile: *Mark and Joann Kurtis*

ALEXANDRA SILVA

“You’ve got to see this place.”

Those were the words that Mark Kurtis used 20 years ago, as he was describing their now-current property to his wife, Joann. At the time, Mark was being shown the property by its owner for a prospective timber purchase for Potter Lumber Company Inc, the company for which he bought timber for 15 years. Although Potter Lumber was not interested in that property at the time, the Kurtis’ decided that the property had everything on it that they were looking for and went ahead and purchased the 80-acre property. They came to call their property Puckerbrush Farm. Puckerbrush is a generic word that is used to describe a scrub-brush area or the “back forty” acres of a farm. Both Mark and JoAnn being foresters, Puckerbrush gave them a place to put what they learned in college into practice.

The 30 acre wooded section of the farm had been heavily cut to a 16” stump

diameter in 1963; which meant that all the fast-growing valuable trees had been harvested. After 24 years of growth, the stand of trees was still dominated by poor quality trees. Initially Mark and JoAnn, with assistance from the USDA’s Forestry Incentive Program, completed 12 acres of timber stand improvement (TSI) to remove the poorer quality trees and rejuvenate the forest. Joining the American Tree Farm System and focusing on their objectives over the last 20 years they have dramatically increased the timber quality and wildlife habitat. They have created more than 2 miles of trails, installed water control structures, planted over 500 Christmas trees, have completed TSI on all of the wooded acres where it was needed, inter-planted many oaks, catalpas, hickories as well as improved the habitat for both large and small game species.

The property features include a hilltop, a shallow valley with perennial stream,

three main open agricultural fields, and a reconstructed 1.5 acre wetland. The woods portion of the property is mainly beech, ash, and maple trees, along with patches of hemlock and spruce. The area is also heavily populated with deer, turkey, grouse, squirrels, and other wildlife. Mark and JoAnn have seen the population of coyote increase in the last twenty years, which doesn’t bother the couple since prey species populations are abundant. In the fall of 2006, Mark also saw the first bobcat on the property although there had been stories of bobcat sightings for 2 years earlier.

In 1987, when Mark and JoAnn first purchased the property, the agricultural fields were still actively being used. One of their first tasks was to invite family and friends out to plant Christmas trees in an area too steep to farm. Their niece Becky, who was two at the time, had fun planting fertilizer tablets that she called tree vitamins, next to the newly planted fir trees. Both she and the fir trees have gotten considerably taller and the first trees were harvested in 1999.

The main access to the property across the lowest agricultural field was limited to the summer months due to groundwater seepage which made the soils constantly wet and difficult to farm. With the help of the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s “Partners for Wildlife” program, the Kurtis’ built a six foot high dam that recreated a 1.5 acre wetland in the swampy area which then provided an all-weather access road along the top. By the next summer, the Kurtis’ noticed an increase in the number of swallows and dragonflies, and a subsequent decrease in the mosquito population.

Alongside the wetland, the Kurtis’ planted bushes to provide waterfowl cover. Mark had the idea of establishing cattails to provide additional habitat, which turned out not to be the best idea. Mark took two large cattails, smacked them together, and covered the entire surface of the wetland with seeds. The next year, the wetland was inundated with cattails. Along with



The Kurtis family felling a Christmas Tree from Puckerbrush Farm.

continued on page 22



Chestnut hedgerow before planting Filburts.


the cattails came a large population of muskrats, who proceeded to damage the dam with their tunneling. Three years later both the cattails and the muskrats seemed to balance out and are now an appreciated feature of the marsh.

Aided by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, who JoAnn works for, the Kurtis' are planting tree and shrub corridors to connect the east and west side of the property, so that wildlife doesn't have to travel across open fields. JoAnn has worked for the Department of Agriculture for the past 22 years. She is also the current newsletter editor for the Allegheny Foothills Chapter (AFC) of NYFOA, is on the AFC Steering and Planning Committees, and was a past co-chair with Mark. They both have been members of NYFOA since 1989. JoAnn was one of the original

founding members of the Annual Rural Landowners Seminar that has provided forestry and wildlife information to more than 3500 owners of rural property in Western New York for the last 14 years. All seven members of the Kurtis family have been active in the chapter with most of the children starting their first woods walks out in a backpack on their parents back. The Kurtis' have hosted a couple of wood walks over the years.

At the moment, the Kurtis' are experimenting with a low-cost, easy-maintenance deer fence and building a log cabin on the property. Mark has wanted to build a traditional log cabin by hand, without power tools, though it is taking longer than originally expected. Usually working alone, Mark has built his own crane to help him with lifting the logs into place.

Especially during the summer and early fall, Mark and JoAnn, along with their five children, take the forty-five minute drive out to Rushford, New York from their home in Salamanca. Until the cabin is completed, the Kurtis family continues to camp outdoors during their visits to their property. Occasionally, extended family and friends venture out to the property as well- where they can see the northern lights, shooting stars and listen to the coyotes howl. Unfortunately, they can't get out to the property when the snow gets too deep, which limits their visits. For the last seven years they have managed to get to Puckerbrush between Thanksgiving and Christmas to pick out the perfect Christmas tree, cut it down with a hand saw, yell "timber," throw a few snowballs and then enjoy hot chocolate and cookies while visiting with their NYFOA friends Charlie and Marion Mowatt.

"Owning Puckerbrush Farm has given us a place to put our knowledge of forest and wildlife management to work on our own property and has given us an opportunity to instill a sense of natural resource conservation in our children." 

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



Jessica Kurtis searching for butterflies on the 80-acre Puckerbrush Farm.

fountain forestry

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

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

Services for Private, Public, and Corporate Landowners Worldwide

www.fountainforestry.com

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

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



Deadline for material is June 1, 2007

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Farmer Browns Logging with Horses

Low Impact and Environmentally Sound

30 years experience and Insured

James F Brown SR

10809 Davis Road

Hunt NY 14846

585-567-8158

www.farmerbrownsplowshop.com



ADVERTISING RATES

Display Ads (per insert)
\$12 per column inch

Full Page:

\$360 (30 column inch)

Half Page:

\$180 (15 column inch)

Quarter Page:

\$90 (7.5 column inch)

Eighth Page:

\$45 (3.75 column inch)

Marketplace:

\$10 minimum for 25 words

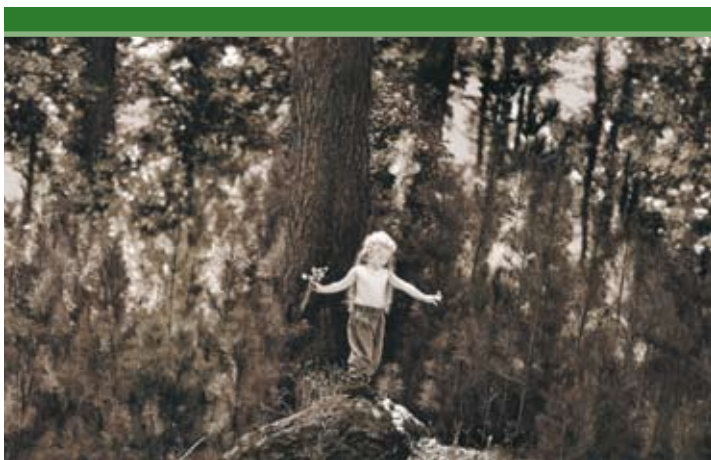
Each additional word: 10 cents

For More Information Contact:

Mary Beth Malmsheimer, Editor

(315) 655-4110

mmalmshe@syr.edu



Caring for the Next Generation

As a leader in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® program, International Paper ensures the perpetual planting, growing and harvesting of trees while protecting biodiversity, wildlife, plants, soil, water and air quality. Each time you purchase paper, packaging or wood products, you help us to grow more trees. Together, we can ensure a bright future for the next generation.

Visit us at www.internationalpaper.com

INTERNATIONAL  PAPER

©2003 International Paper

"I AM FARM BUREAU."



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

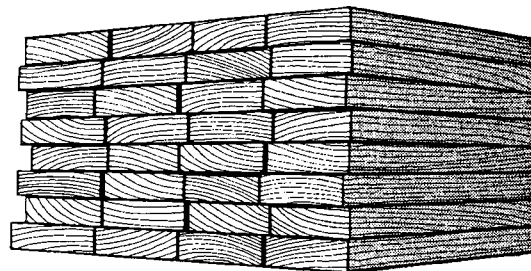
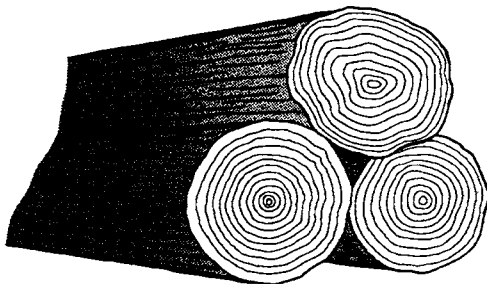
*"Nobody speaks up for land owners better than Farm Bureau.
That's why I am a member. You should be, too."*

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

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

Membership in Farm Bureau isn't just for farmers. It is for anyone who cares about or lives in rural New York. Join now. Send your membership check for \$65 to N.Y. Farm Bureau, Box 5330, Albany, NY 12205-0330

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



More Valuable Logs . . . More Valuable Lumber

- Stop End Splits on Logs

- Prevent End Checking Losses

Use the Best Known Products in the World

ANCHORSEAL[®]
End Sealer for Logs & Lumber

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

LogSavers[®]

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

For samples or more information, contact:



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

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

website: www.uccoatings.com

email: nyfoa@uccoatings.com

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

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