

The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

For people who care about New York's trees and forests

July/August 2008



Member Profile: Ron and Peggy Pedersen

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**The New York
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VOLUME 46, NUMBER 4

The New York Forest Owner is a bi-monthly publication of The New York Forest Owners Association, P.O. Box 541, Lima, N.Y 14485. Materials submitted for publication should be sent to: Mary Beth Malmsheimer, Editor, The New York Forest Owner, 134 Lincklaen Street, Cazenovia, New York 13035. Materials may also be e-mailed to mmalmshe@syr.edu. Articles, artwork and photos are invited and if requested, are returned after use. The deadline for submission for the September/October issue is August 1, 2008.

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

www.nyfoa.org

COVER: Ron and Peggy Pedersen on their property in Broome County. For member profile, turn to page 21. Photo courtesy of Ron Pedersen.

From The Executive Director

I had the opportunity to spend a day with the regional Master Forest Owner (MFO) coordinators at their annual meeting. What a great group of folks – committed to not only forest stewardship and education, but also willing to contribute time to guiding this important program. We had an exciting presentation from our partners at NYS-DEC who discussed the details of their new initiative that NYFOA and the MFOs will be supporting to help landowners protect and enhance habitats that are important to NYS's Species of Greatest Conservation Need as identified in the State Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy.

Good news on the passage of the Farm Bill. Check out the News and Notes section of this edition beginning on page 15 to learn about how the Farm Bill will help NYS's forests and forest owners. Farm Bill programs are expected to provide some of the economic incentives needed to manage lands for carbon sequestration, wildlife habitat, and enhanced water quality.

Would you like to receive an electronic version of future editions of *The Forest Owner*? If so, please send Liana an email. You would get an email every two months announcing when the current edition is available for download; and be given the URL for a webpage where you can go and get a PDF file of the publication. While being convenient for you – read *The Forest Owner* anytime, any place; this will also help to save the Association money as the cost of printing and postage continues to rise with each edition.

The response to the spring donation appeal was great. Thank you to all of the

members who made generous contributions to support NYFOA's education and advocacy work. Would you like to see your donation dollars go even further? Then check with your employer about their matching funds program. Several members have been able to double their contribution, by getting their companies to also make a

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

donation. It's a pretty simple process – just get a match form from your employer, send it in with your contribution, and Liana will invoice your employer for their share.

Speaking of the value of contributions, we have received word from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) in Syracuse that the NYFOA scholarship's total fund value is now at over \$28,000. ESF projects that their 2008-09 spending on a scholarship award will be \$1,350. This is an impressive commitment to the next generation by NYFOA members!

I want to remind readers of *The Forest Owner* that the advertisements that appear in this magazine are run in good faith by our Association in accordance with our organization's advertising policy as stated on the facing page. Before obtaining any of the products or services described in these ads, it is always wise to evaluate the advertiser's offering with due diligence. 🏠

–Mary Jeanne Packer
Executive Director

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 people who care about NYS's trees and forests and are interested in the thoughtful management of private forests for the benefit of current and future generations.

Join! NYFOA is a not-for-profit group 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.

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Front Row: Laurel Gailor (l) and Dick Patton, regional MFO coordinators, review a wild-life reference manual with Amy Mahar and Jenny Landry, NYS-DEC State Wildlife Grants program staff, at MFO regional coordinators meeting at Arnot Forest. Behind them (l to r) Peter Smallidge, State Extension Forester, Gary Goff, NYS MFO program director, and Peter Cann, Mike Birmingham, and Brett Chedzoy, also regional MFO coordinators look on. This summer and fall, all MFO volunteers will be receiving a copy of this book, A Technical Guide to Forest Wildlife Habitat Management (DeGraaf, Yamasaki, Leak & Lester, 2006), through a grant awarded by NYS DEC to NYFOA for providing assistance to forest landowners to identify important forested habitats that could support species of greatest conservation need as identified in the new Comprehensive State Conservation Strategy for NYS.

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Members Voices

Sound woodlot management practices

BY MIKE SEAGER

Editors Note: The original article to which Mike Seager is responding to can be viewed at: <http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester/pdf/eco-logue%20802.pdf>. The article is on page 3.

Peter Debes's essay, "The Next Great Wave of Deforestation?" in the Feb/March 2008 eco-logue raises some valid concerns but also omits some important aspects of a very complex issue. As a member of both the Sierra Club and the New York Forest Owners' Association (NYFOA), I want to offer these thoughts to advance the conversation on a topic that is important to all of us.

I agree with Debes that conversion of land from scrub or forest to the production of crops has a detrimental effect on wildlife habitat. Row crops such as corn often impose additional environmental costs in topsoil erosion and pesticide pollution. I also agree that

any serious attempt to reduce global warming must focus on reducing energy consumption; I believe this point is often overlooked in the enthusiasm for finding a solution to environmental problems without affecting a lifestyle characterized by profligate energy consumption.


However, limiting opportunities to use forest products as part of a comprehensive energy strategy imposes unnecessary restrictions and can have detrimental environmental effects as well.

A well-managed woodlot can yield a variety of products – firewood, timber, raw material for cellulosic ethanol – and improve the health of the forest and the quality of wildlife habitat at the same time. Cutting firewood, for example, does not necessarily mean cutting large and/or dead trees; as Debes notes, such trees are important aspects of a healthy forest ecosystem. Cutting firewood can mean reducing

invasive species such as Russian olive or buckthorn, over-represented species such as beech or hop hornbeam, and trees that are diseased or suppressed so healthier trees have less competition. The key here is that the woodlot be well-managed; the owner should have a vision for the woodlot, and a plan to reach that vision. Firewood production, timber harvesting, and other activities should be done to move toward that vision. It is possible to have a win-win situation, where the woodlot provides economic and other benefits to the owner, to the environment and to society in general, but it takes care and planning, not to mention work.

Limiting opportunities to get some financial benefit from woodland can have detrimental environmental effects, especially in view of New York's property tax levels. Many landowners need some economic benefit from their land to justify owning it. The economic benefit might be in the form of cash from selling timber or some other forest crop, or in savings of heating costs by producing firewood. Precluding such benefits encourages landowners to sell their woodlots, which in turn results in many cases in increased parcelization, habitat fragmentation, conversion of rural land to residential development, and the ensuing suburban sprawl. Sprawl, of course, means both habitat destruction and increased energy consumption. Government policies should encourage responsible woodlot management, rather than restricting the use of forest products.

Sound woodlot management practices make it possible to preserve forested land, improve its wildlife value, and derive wood products at the same time. Both NYFOA and the Sierra Club have a stake in encouraging such enlightened woodlot management and government policies that promote it.

NYFOA has frequent events to highlight various forest management topics. Almost all of them are free and open to the public, and I encourage other Sierra Club members to attend some. Event listings can be found at www.nyfoa.org. 

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Forest Science Becomes Forest Practice

Reviewing practical science to help forest owners sustainably manage their woodlands

PETER SMALLIDGE

Assessing the financial and productive sustainability of diameter-limit cutting



Peter Smallidge

Article Reviewed:

Nyland, R. D. 2006. Diameter-limit cutting and silviculture in northern hardwoods. Pages 16-23 in *Proceedings of the Conference on Diameter-Limit Cutting in Northeastern Forests*. USDA Forest Service Northeastern Research Station. General Technical Report NE-342. Available on-line at <http://nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/8045> or via an internet search for the key words "diameter limit cutting hardwoods".

Issue and Background

The practice of exploitive and unsustainable timber harvesting, variously known as high-grading, diameter-limit cutting, and selective cutting continues in eastern hardwood forests. Diameter-limit cutting, the cutting of trees larger than a threshold size, persists for a number of reasons. Some landowners and forest practitioners misjudge the difference in tree diameter as an indicator for age, and incorrectly cut the big trees to let smaller trees thrive. Even with increased sunlight, the smaller trees in a forest grow more slowly than larger trees. In other cases diameter-limit proponents assert the financial gain is better than with silvicultural practices. Finally, diameter-limit cutting is often not recognized for its negative impacts and is utilized as the easiest, and presumed harmless, path to forest management.

Many northeastern forests grew back on abandoned agricultural land or fol-

lowing intensive cutting in the 1800's and early 1900's. The trees all typically establish at approximately the same time, following abandonment or cutting, resulting in an even-aged forest. These forests have mixtures of hardwood species and the different species grow at different rates. Additionally, trees of the same species will grow at different rates depending on several factors. The faster growing trees and faster growing species become taller and larger in diameter sooner, giving the impression of a forest with different ages of trees. Less commonly, forests will include three or more age classes of trees, either in clumps or as scattered individual stems. Distinct age classes result from small scale disturbances. These forests are uneven-aged forests.



The evidence for diameter-limit cutting, also called high-grading, is seen as reductions in forest productivity, future value potential, and species diversity.

Diameter-limit cutting removes the faster growing species and the faster growing individuals. In contrast are silvicultural practices, such as crown thinning and regeneration harvests, that complement the biology of the species and use a knowledge of markets to tend forests until they mature and eventually regenerate them (typically without replanting). Tending the forest usually results in removing undesirable species and stems of poor quality while maintaining a uniform canopy cover. Silvicultural regeneration assures the desired variety of species and number of stems to provide a closed canopy forest.

Among many issues surrounding diameter-limit cutting versus silvicultural practices include the questions: (1) which practice provides for the greatest sawtimber production and (2) how are financial outputs affected by each technique?

Review of Nyland 2006

Dr. Nyland compared the effects of the diameter-limit cutting technique against the silvicultural practice of a crown thinning¹ technique to assess differences in productivity and revenue in forests. To allow for a consistent com-

parison, the characteristics of three real forest stands were manipulated using computer simulation for three harvests in each stand using both cutting techniques. A forest stand, or management unit, is a relatively homogenous area of several acres that is managed uniformly with a given practice. Information on the volume and value removed was recorded for each simulated cutting event. Additionally, a similar simulation process was used to compare diameter-limit cutting to uneven-aged management with the silvicultural selection system.


In simulations of repeated cutting in the even-aged forests, the crown thinning technique resulted in 20% to 30% greater sawtimber production than diameter-limit cutting. Crown thinning also provided 3 to 22 cords/acre of fuelwood during each of the three harvests. Because of the attributes of crown thinning, more than 70% of the total volume harvested was concentrated in larger sized trees that would potentially be higher quality and thus higher value. Conversely, large diameter trees represented 8% to 13% of the total harvest volume in the diameter-limit cutting simulations. The simulated cutting assumed that tree size corresponded directly to tree grade and that larger trees have a higher value per board foot². The crown thinning cumulative revenue, reported as total cash flow, was 176% to 200% greater than the cumulative revenue from diameter-limit cutting. The present net worth of the revenue was positive for both cutting techniques, although greater for diameter-limit cutting when the alternate rate of return exceeded 4%.

Simulations of the diameter-limit cutting technique were compared to the silvicultural selection system using multiple cutting entries over a 90 to 100 year period for three uneven-aged forest stands. Because of differences in the timing of each simulated cutting event, production and value were averaged per year to allow comparison. The selection

system resulted in shorter cutting cycles of 15 years compared to approximately 25 year cycles with diameter-limit cutting. Large diameter trees represented more than 90% of the volume in the simulated selection system cutting compared to 40 to 90% under diameter-limit cutting. The average annual simulated production and average annual income were more stable and greater under selection system cutting than with diameter-limit cutting.

Application to NY Private Forests

Exploitive cutting is too common in New York's private forests. Nyland (2006) illustrates one aspect of the unsustainable and undesirable qualities of diameter-limit cutting. On the basis of timber volume, quality of production and revenue over multiple harvests, established silvicultural practices are a better choice than diameter-limit cutting. For the majority of NY forest owners who desire a healthy, productive, diverse, and profitable hardwood forest, there is no rationale support for the use of diameter-limit or high-grade cutting. Forests will sustain the multitude of values and benefits they currently provide only through silvicultural practices.

Nyland (2006) did not evaluate the ecological or aesthetic impacts of diameter limit cutting. However, the natural process of forest development and the attributes of diameter-limit cutting would logically lead to the expectation that exploitive cutting negates most owner objectives for ecological or aesthetic values. Diameter-limit cutting, in most eastern hardwood forests, will reduce the diversity of tree species, encourage the growth of diseased and poorly formed trees, reduce the abundance of large diameter trees, and increase damage to juvenile stems. 

Peter J. Smallidge is the NYS Extension Forester and Director Cornell University Arnot Teaching and Research Forest. He can be reached at email: pjs23@cornell.edu or visit his website at www.ForestConnect.info

¹ The technical application of crown thinning is more complex than can be described in this review. Interested readers should refer to the original article for the details.

² A board foot is the unit of measure for sawtimber and equals a volume that is 12" x 12" x 1"

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New York State Tree Farm News

ERIN O'NEILL



Tree Farm Goes Green!

I know, I know... you're thinking how can growing trees get any greener. Well, I'll tell you, it's not that it's getting greener, it's just that the Tree Farm program on a National scale is seeking recognition for your efforts in sustainable forestry through green certification. This is great news. Remember, 'Tree Farming' was the term the organization used in the 40s when they were creating the program to introduce sustainable forestry in terms that were easily understood by the public. Farming itself is the definition of sustainable management where the land yields the needs of today while being cared for to meet the needs of future generations. Gifford Pinchot said "Wood is a crop. Forestry is tree farming." By linking forestry with farming, it implied a



commitment to the land year after year. By joining the Tree Farm program, it showed that you were making this commitment. Now, all these years later, through our efforts to put that good forestry on more acres using management plans and inspection reports, the program is finally applying for PEFC recognition to become 3rd party recognized as a certification system.

I guess there's been a lot of talking about certification lately and maybe not so much explaining. Let me try to tell you what this means both logistically and locally. PEFC stands for Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification. They are an independent council started in 1999 to promote sustainable forestry through third party certification. So, they are kind of the international "parent" that assures mutual recognition between participating governments that a green certification system is for real. Once Tree Farm gets the PEFC endorsement, we'll be

able to continue with an independent 3rd party audit. This means that a company who has no interest and no bias will evaluate our processes both in the office, our paperwork and policies, and in the field, our practice, to make sure everything meets the standards set by the council. So for you, this means that Tree Farm would then become a certification program parallel with SFI, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, and you would be recognized internationally as managing your land sustainably. Additionally, Tree Farmers could sell wood for a higher price wherever a premium price is offered. These markets are few right now, but as the green movement gets stronger, these will become more numerous. You may however, notice that you will get a higher stumpage price if you are able to market your wood as certified because of the expectation of quality timber.

I hope I'm helping you to see some of the benefits of being a Tree Farmer and if you have any questions please remember that a Tree Farm representative is only a phone call (1-800-836-3566) or e-mail (nytreefarm@hotmail.com) away. 🌲

Erin O'Neill is the Chair of the NYS Tree Farm Committee.



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Kid's Corner

REBECCA HARGRAVE



Norman Briggs of Jay, NY submitted this photo. He states, "several grandchildren 'tree-walking' which seems to be a great source of entertainment. The older boy has excellent balance and can make some record breaking broad jumps."

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!

Homes for Everything

Humans build their houses out of wood, but we aren't the only ones who use the forest to create a home. All types of animals, from the smallest insect to the largest moose, use forests to provide them with a place to live. Thousands of animals call our northern forests home, but each type of animal has specific requirements for its habitat, or ecology area where that animal can get its food, water and shelter. You will have many species in your woods already, and you can do easy projects in the forest to attract other species.

First start off by finding out what you already have. Some clues would be to look for deer browse or droppings or turkey scratches or listen for different bird songs. Keep a list of the animals you have and write down the environment you find them in, such as near water, in an opening, feeding on acorns or cones, or at the edge of the forest.

Then think about what type of animal you'd like to attract and whether your forest has what it needs to survive. Animals need food, water and places to hide and sleep. Fortunately there are some easy ways to create the food water and shelter that attract a wide variety of animals.

Provide water: Many animals need to have open sources of water for drinking or reproducing. Vernal pools are a great way to attract amphibians to your woods. These temporary ponds provide great habitat for frogs and salamanders since fish can't survive in them (See Kristi Sullivan's article in the March 2008 issue). Watering rocks, large rocks with indentations that can hold water- like a bird bath, are great ways to provide drinking water for birds and small mammals.

Provide food: There are different kinds of food sources for different animals. Some animals eat insects, some eat leaves

and twigs, some eat nuts and berries, and others eat other animals. You can plant different trees and shrubs as food sources for herbivores (plant eaters), and generally as you attract a lot of herbivores, carnivores (meat eaters) will follow. Oaks, serviceberry, pine, and beech are excellent examples of food sources for animals.

Provide shelter: Laying old logs out in the woods can provide shelter for salamanders. Piling brush can provide homes for rabbits. Nest boxes can be made for bluebirds, barn owls, wood ducks, woodpeckers, and raccoons. Encourage your parents to leave some dead trees with large holes in them to be natural nesting places for many animals including squirrels, mink, and owls.

If you want to get more detail on these and other easy wildlife habitat projects go to <http://www.forestconnect.info> and look under the wildlife publications.

As you add habitat elements to your woods, go back and check on them to see if you're attracting critters. If you have the right conditions, your new birds, mammals, and amphibians will keep coming back time and time again. 🌲

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



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Wild Things in Your Woodlands

KRISTI SULLIVAN

BATS IN THE FOREST AND BEYOND



Nine species of bats live in New York State. All of these species are small, from the diminutive eastern pipistrelle (2.9-3.5 inches long; wing-span 8-10 inches), to the more sizeable hoary bat (5.1-5.9 inches long; wing-span 14.5-16.5 inches), the largest bat in the northeast. Although bats worldwide feed on a variety of items including nectar, fish, frogs, blood, and fruit, all of New York's bats feed exclusively on night-flying insects.

While some types of bats tend to specialize on one or more groups of insects, others eat a variety of prey items. The big brown bat, for instance, has strong, powerful jaws and feeds mainly on beetles and other hard-bodied insects. Hoary bats and silver-haired bats like to eat moths, and little brown bats and eastern pipistrelles have a diverse diet that includes beetles, true bugs, moths, flies, wasps, and other insects. Most species, even those with strong preferences, can vary their diets depending upon the season and availability of prey. Because of the number of insects bats consume, they are believed to regulate populations of forest and

agricultural insect pests. For example, in a study of a colony of 150 brown bats in an agricultural area, researchers estimated that the colony consumed over 1.25 million insects in a year. This is not surprising, considering that a single bat may eat 3,000 insects on a given summer night. Bats roosting and foraging in New York forests consume forest and eastern tent moths, and a variety of other potential forest pests.

All nine species of bats in New York use forests and trees to some extent, though some are more strongly tied to woodlands than others. Our two most common species – the little brown bat and the big brown bat – roost and raise their young primarily in buildings (though at times in tree cavities) during the summer months. Female bats of these species form large maternity colonies, while males roost singly or in small groups. Another bat, the eastern long-eared bat, roosts on the exterior of buildings or in trees. Most species however, including the eastern pipistrelle, small-footed myotis, red bat, silver-haired bat, hoary bat, and the federally endangered Indiana bat, roost in trees during the summer and are strongly tied to forest habitat during the summer months.

When temperatures drop in the fall, most bat species move short distances to caves and mines in New York or nearby states. Three of our tree bat species – the red bat, hoary bat, and silver-haired bat – migrate south for the winter, sometimes moving with, and follow similar migration paths to, birds. Red bats and silver-haired bats move as far as the southern states, while hoary bats may go all the way to Mexico. After moving south, some individuals

remain active year-round, while others hibernate. All other species in New York State move short distances, often 20 miles or less, to overwinter in caves and mines where winter temperatures remain above freezing. During hibernation, a bat's heart rate slows, and body temperature drops, resulting in energy conservation that allows the bat to make it through the winter on just a few grams of fat. Bats usually lose from ¼ to ½ their body weight during hibernation, and emerge in spring when insects are once again available.

Beginning the winter of 2006/2007, scientists in New York, Vermont, Connecticut and Massachusetts began observing bats flying outside during the day in the winter, clustered near cave entrances, or dead or dying inside their winter hibernacula. Because many of these animals had a mysterious white fungus on their nose, or on the tail, wings, or ears, this affliction has been termed "white nose syndrome". Although the fungus may be a symptom and not the cause of the bat deaths, scientists have been unable to determine the cause of mortality to date. The Eastern Pipistrelle, little brown, northern long-eared, small-footed myotis, and the federally endangered Indiana bat all have been affected. Last winter, tens of thousands of bats died. In eight caves in New York, 80 to 100 percent of bats died in the past two winters. The declining number of bats could mean the loss of entire local populations, and have far-reaching effects on our forest ecosystems.

While the cause of this syndrome has yet to be determined, landowners and homeowners can help by providing the best habitat possible for bats. Because

NYFOA SAFETY TIP

Protect Yourself - Heat Stress

Tree felling can be an exhausting endeavor and exhaustion can provide a short cut to injury. During summer months, this hazard is compounded by heat and the effects thereof. Staying cool is essential to good safety practices.

When the body is unable to cool itself by sweating, several heat-induced illnesses such as heat stress or heat exhaustion and the more severe heat stroke can occur, and can result in loss of concentration, judgment and even death.

Factors Leading to Heat Stress

High temperature and humidity; direct sun or heat; limited air movement; physical exertion; poor physical condition; some medicines; and inadequate tolerance for hot workplaces.

Symptoms of Heat Exhaustion

- Headaches, dizziness, lightheadedness or fainting.
- Weakness and moist skin.
- Mood changes such as irritability or confusion.
- Upset stomach or vomiting.

Symptoms of Heat Stroke

- Dry, hot skin with no sweating.

- Mental confusion or losing consciousness.
- Seizures or convulsions.

Preventing Heat Stress

- Know signs/symptoms of heat-related illnesses; monitor yourself and coworkers.
- Block out direct sun or other heat sources.
- Use cooling fans/air-conditioning; rest regularly.
- Drink lots of water; about 1 cup every 15 minutes.
- Wear lightweight, light colored, loose-fitting clothes.
- Avoid alcohol, caffeinated drinks, or heavy meals.
- Never forgo proper personal protective equipment in favor of cooling off; rather, take a break.

What to Do for Heat-Related Illness

- Call 911 (or local emergency number) at once.

While waiting for help to arrive

- Move to a cool, shaded area.
- Loosen or remove heavy clothing.
- Provide cool drinking water.
- Fan and mist the person with water.

Safety tip provided by Ed Wright, President, W. J. Cox Associates, Inc.

bats are known to forage regularly along riparian corridors, maintaining or restoring forest cover adjacent to streams and other waterways benefits bats in your area. Maintaining or creating snags (standing dead trees), particularly those over 14 inches in diameter, is also beneficial. The holes, or cavities, that develop in snags provide roost sites for bats. Snags are particularly beneficial when left along riparian areas, forest edges, and in regenerating stands. However, snags left in mature or old growth stands also provide benefits, as do living trees with cavities.

The characteristics of certain trees can also attract and provide habitat for bats. For instance, many bats will roost under exfoliating bark of dead or dying trees, or under the bark of trees like shagbark hickory. Others roost in trees with furrowed bark like walnut, locust, fir, and some pines. Red bats roost in the foliage of deciduous and coniferous trees. By retaining trees with deeply furrowed, or shaggy bark, you can help provide habitat for bats. Because bats

are roosting in trees and raising their young during the summer months, avoiding timber harvesting from May to early August is also a good way to safeguard the bats in your forest so you and your forest can continue to benefit from the insect-eating services they provide.

Bats in your home or other buildings may present additional challenges. If you would like more information on keeping bats out of unwanted places while taking steps to conserve them, visit <http://wildlifecontrol.info/pubs/Pages/CornellUniversity.aspx> for a fact sheet about managing bats in buildings. 🦇

Kristi Sullivan coordinates the Conservation Education Program at Cornell's Arnot Forest. More information on managing habitat for wildlife, as well as upcoming educational programs at the Arnot Forest can be found by visiting the Arnot Conservation Education Program web site at ArnotConservation.info



Bruce E. Robinson, Inc.

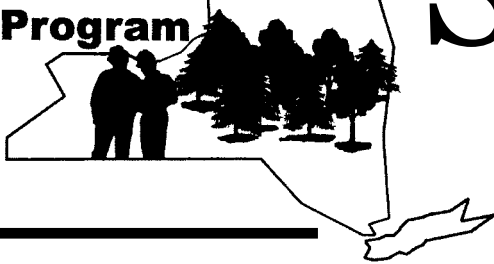
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**NY Master Forest
Owner/COVERTS
Program**



Stories from the Woods

GEORGE KOLIWASKY

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.

A CHEESEBURGER AND A WALK

No, this was not a walk to get rid of those calories from a well-earned cheeseburger, but it was a walk because I craved a cheeseburger.

My walk began last summer when Gary Goff contacted me, and asked if I would consider being a Regional Coordinator for the Master Forest Owner's Program. The bribe was an Arnot Forest t-shirt, so I signed on. One of my goals as a new coordinator was to get together with Jeff Murray who writes an outdoor column for the *Elmira Star Gazette* (our local newspaper). He went out with me on a woodswalk with a local forest owner in November and then in December Jeff published a great article with pictures of the landowner and me. My MFO program promotional effort was off to a good start.

I walked into one of our local restaurants a couple of days after the newspaper article appeared, and there was it was, posted on the wall. This is where this story begins. Mike, the chef at the restaurant, came up to me, and started talking about the newspaper article, his land, and his interest in having me do a similar woodswalk on his property. Now is the cheeseburger moment! I ordered my cheeseburger and we sat down, and planned the walk for the afternoon of December 31— a great way to end the year!

Prior to the visit, I did a little homework. Based on my "topo" and soil survey maps of Chemung County, I knew I would be looking at a gently sloping profile left from the Glacial

Lake Plain. I knew also that this property was part of the Catherine Creek Watershed. All this told me that there was potential for high productivity of these woods – and boy, it was there!

So, my New Year's Eve Party started off with the woodswalk. It was one of those damp, cloudy winter days with spitting snow, and the promise of more on the way. I was greeted by Mike, the whinnying of horses, and an array of cats in his barn. This warm greeting took the chill away, and we talked a bit about his property, and what we would be looking at.

Mike's property consists of approximately 90 acres; 40 of woods, 25 in pasture and 25 farmed. On the truck farm portion, he grows pumpkins, squash, and sweet corn for local grocery stores and roadside vendors.

Mike also told me that in the 1800's, during the Chemung Canal days, canal donkeys (used to pull barges) were farmed out here. We then headed across the road to start our walk.

While walking through the pastures, several ponds came into view. They vary in size and fish stockings. Several were made in conjunction with the County Soil and Water Conservation Department. This area fit all my expectations from the maps as far as drainages and soil conditions. Upon reaching the edge of the woods, I first saw sugar maple, hemlocks and yellow birch growing on glacial deposits that rolled into Catherine Creek and her swamp. Standing next to a vernal pool I could only wonder what General Sullivan thought, almost 250 years ago,



These tall 20" dbh sugar maples are good seed sources for regeneration and also indicate that the woodlot has a good site index.



This 32" dia. red oak stump is a good indicator of the sawtimber potential of Mike's woodlot.

as he marched north through this area to fight the Seneca Indians.

Mike's property was logged off about 7 years ago. It was a selective harvest of high-grade timber and veneer logs. Stumps, measuring up to 38 inches across, show the remnants of sugar maple, ash, oak and hemlock. All in all, Mike was satisfied with the logging process from start to finish. While this logging was done with a signature and a handshake, he realizes it could have turned out much worse. In the future, he will most likely use the services of a consulting forester because of the uncertainties that could have arisen via the handshake deal. Walking through his woods, the slash is pretty well gone and the roads were well graded, showing little or no evidence of soil erosion.

We first walked the property boundaries and then we wandered on the horseback riding trails that cut through this wooded piece. The trails are constantly groomed, and after this winter's ice storms he has his work cut out for him.

After our initial pass through, we began a slower and more deliberate walk with more conversation. I asked Mike in what direction he was looking to go with his woods. This brought out the typical stop, look around, look up, and sigh. He said he wanted to keep it well managed but at the same time wanted to use it for recreational purposes and wildlife. Now it was time for me to look around, look up, sigh and kick the


duff. We talked about culling some of the lower grade and less desirable trees (primarily yellow birch and beech) which he would use for firewood. We also measured some of the standing hardwoods. Many of these measured 18" – 20" dbh with hemlocks going well over 24". He's definitely interested in future harvesting, but we both agreed that even though there is more harvestable timber now there is no need, at this time, to do any large-scale harvesting. The overstory is open enough to let the crowns of good trees grow. We discussed the ash trees and pending threat from the Emerald Ash Borer. Even though not a large quantity, there are certainly some prime ash trees measuring 18" – 20" dbh. However, finding a way to market a small quantity and having equipment in there for this small job certainly has pros and cons that have to be weighed. This is something for a DEC or professional forester who is much more experienced to help decide. Scattered oaks measuring well over 24" are being left for seed trees and some of the hemlock might be milled on site for a future out building.

Wildlife management was an easy call. If I were a deer or turkey, PLEASE put me here! Between brush, wet areas, ponds and well maintained woods what more could there be? We saw an owl, hawks, and a couple grouse. Deer tracks were abundant along with turkey scratching. Along the swamp, I saw coyote and mink sign. Rabbits had been working on the bark of small trees and berry bushes. Though we did not see any that day, Mike said that pheasants are around. He even had a bald eagle in the area for a couple of seasons, but had not seen it in two or three years. Chickadees, cardinals and blue jays also made themselves known with their calls.

Having a parcel of property can also bring with it other opportunities and issues. With the recent "natural gas explorations" in this area it is of primary concern. Not only the pos-

sibility of gas wells, but also gas lines constructed through the property all have to be factored in. Calculating the cost:benefit ratio of exploration and potential production in consideration of the impact on woods and wildlife is not easy. State land adjoins one end of the property which brings in the problem of trespassing and the ever growing liabilities that go along with it. The problem of firewood theft is also a concern.

We discussed long-term goals and how State and Federal assistance programs might be able to help him out. As we wrapped up the walk, I felt certain that Mike had a much better notion of what goes into forest management, and the enjoyment, pride and economic benefits that can come from planning.

For me, all woodswalks are a learning and enjoyable experience, but from this walk, a friendship has also grown. Mike and I talk quite often now and toss around more ideas and expand on what direction he chooses to go. For now, it is a phone call, and "Hey George, what are you doing today? Let's cut some firewood". 

Calendar Items

June 27 Southern Tier MFO Refresher and NYFOA Woodswalk Hosted by Ed and Wanda Piestrak, Lindley, NY

July 11-12 Arnot Forest MFO Regional Workshop. Arnot Forest, Van Etten, NY

Aug. 23 Western MFO Refresher Workshop. Hosted by Jim Darling, Panama, NY

Sept. 13 Eastern MFO Refresher Workshop. Hosted by Ron Pedersen, Deposit, NY

Oct. 25 Northern MFO Refresher Workshop. Hosted by Kelly Smallidge & Bill Scripser, Crown Point, NY

Timber Theft *and How to Prevent It*

HUGH CANHAM AND RONALD PEDERSEN

Editors Note: This will be an ongoing column in the Forest Owner that will draw on the expertise of many people including law enforcement, lawyers, other foresters and landowners with experience in this field. We will begin this column with a summary of the Timber Theft forum.

Legislature Keeps Timber Theft at Forefront

Senator George Winner and Assemblyman David Koon (chair and vice chair of the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources) sponsored a forum in Albany on April 14 that brought together invited forest owners, loggers, mills, organizations, and state agencies to discuss proposals to further curb timber theft.

Senator Winner stressed the economic and environmental importance of New York's forests and cited the recent survey of timber thefts that showed that it remains a serious problem. Assemblyman Koon noted that timber is a replenishable natural resource that deserves protection. He also noted that his property had been a victim of timber theft.

Moderator Eric Johnson (Editor of the Northern Logger magazine) in-


roduced the key speakers: Dave Gaskell (New York Forest Owners Association), Sam Creech (New York State State Timber Producers Association), Mike Hanlon (Empire State Forest Products Association) and Jonathon Follender (legal representative). Each presented suggestions for further action, which together with the materials distributed as background by the Commission, made possible an active discussion of present practices and further options. It was pointed out that no one action would be sufficient and that all parties must be proactive in attacking timber theft.

Landowner responsibilities mentioned centered on proper boundary identification, use of sound contracts, guidance from professional foresters, and knowing what is happening on surrounding lands. Suggested logger responsibilities included certainty of boundaries, keeping good records of timber cut, and working to eliminate



those who steal timber. Mills should know the source of logs purchased, and refuse to deal with known thieves. Law enforcement and judicial personnel need a far better understanding of the wood products industry and must give timber theft crimes a much higher priority.

Other states' laws and regulations seem to have greatly curbed timber theft. These need to be explored in depth along with other options that have been raised. Organizations including the New York Forest Owners Association, Empire State Forest Products Association, New York Society of American Foresters and the New York State Timber Producers have a responsibility to educate members and support steps to curb timber theft. Governmental agencies have the responsibility to pursue timber thieves as they do other criminals.

A summary of the Forum can be obtained from the Rural Resources Commission at (518) 455-2544. "Timber Theft in NY: Findings from Questionnaires and Suggested Further Actions," by Hugh Canham and Ron Pedersen, (September 2007) can be downloaded from www.nyfoa.com or obtained from Hugh Canham at hocanham@esf.edu 

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NEWS & NOTES

Farm Bill enhancement to forests

Editors Note: Below is a portion of an article, In My Opinion, written by George Gay, Executive Director of the Northern Forest Alliance, that discusses how the Farm Bill will provide an unprecedented level of targeted support to help enhance upstate New York communities and promote our forest oriented businesses and outdoor heritage.

The inclusion of the forestry and community development programs in the Farm Bill will help New York and all the Northern Forest retain its forestlands for the future and provide much-needed resilience for the local communities that are creating new paths into the future.

Local chambers of commerce, community wellness groups and conservation organizations are especially pleased that

the Farm Bill creates the new Northern Border Economic Development Commission, which will consist of the governors of New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. Strongly supported by the Northern Forest Alliance from the beginning, the commission has been shepherded through the Farm Bill process with significant efforts from Sens. Schumer and Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.), Congressmen Arcuri and McHugh and others in the Northern Forest delegation.

The commission will use a bottom-up approach to provide new grant funding for economic development projects, productive natural resource conservation, technical assistance to the forest products industry, alternative energy projects job training, infrastructure improvements, land conservation, and other projects critical to our rural counties that are confronting substantial economic challenges.

Importantly for upstate New Yorkers, the Farm Bill continues to provide essential support for private forest owners and communities through the Forest Stewardship Program, Urban and Com-

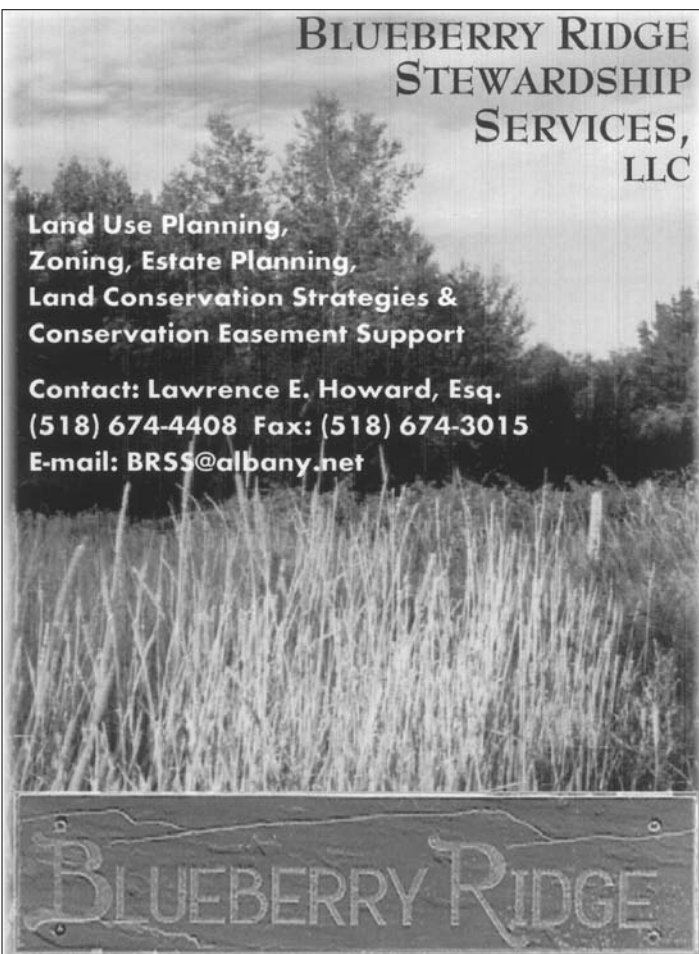
munity Forestry Program, Cooperative Extension forestry programs, which will, among other things, provide new funding to develop a cutting-edge statewide forest management plan to guide forest stewardship in New York.

The Farm Bill also provides increased funding to help landowners and municipalities manage their land through programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, and Health) Forest Reserve Program. These programs will provide the economic incentives needed to enable private forest owners to manage their lands to sequester carbon, provide habitat for threatened and endangered species, or enhance water quality.

New York Steps Up Action To Halt The Spread Of Tree-Killing Beetles, Other Threats To Forests *Transportation of Untreated Wood Restricted; Campers Help Needed*

New York has taken new efforts to stop the influx and spread of tree-killing pests such as the Emerald Ash Borer,

continued on page 17



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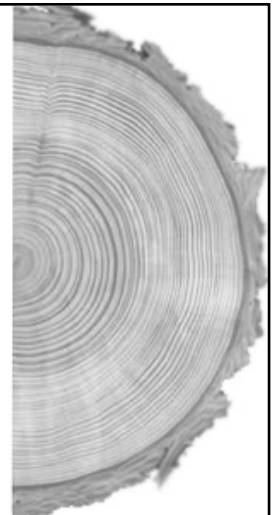
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Dead Branch Tips on Black Cherry

DOUGLAS C. ALLEN

This spring I received a few emails from forest owners in both the Adirondacks and in western New York State regarding concerns about the abundance of dead foliage on branch tips of black cherry. I introduced readers of the *Forest Owner* to this damage and its associated insect in the May/June issue of 2004. Because damage was so prevalent this spring on cherry in both the overstory and the understory of infested stands, I thought it would be worthwhile to bring it to your attention again. At this point, however, I believe it is best to think of this insect as an “entomological curiosity” rather than a “pest” of black cherry. In general, the damage it causes seems to be merely unsightly and likely does not detract from the growth and commercial value of this species.

The adult insect (which I have not been able to rear so can not describe!) is a very small moth in the genus *Archips* (are-kips). Though known for a long time apparently it is a new species, because it has yet to be named.

As time and funds permit, I have been trying to work out its biology and the consequences of its feeding damage to saplings. I still have a lot to learn, but the following is what I have observed so far.

Evidence of insect feeding appears very early in the spring, usually from late April to early May. Shortly after a bud begins to expand, the larva bores into the young, green shoot (Fig. 1). In its wake, it leaves a hole 0.04 to 0.05 inches in diameter, in other words a very obscure opening! One requires a hand lens to get a good look at the entrance hole. Often the most conspicuous evidence that a young twig has been infested is a small pile of tiny pellet-like fecal material (frass) that accumulates around the entrance cavity.

As the caterpillar grows it hollows out the green twig. It feeds and lives within this tunnel until completing development. As the insect feeds, the shoot continues to grow. New leaves and the shoot itself remain green below the damage, but above where the

caterpillar burrows, the new twig and foliage wilt and eventually turn brown or blackish (Figs. 1 and 2). Most infested tips eventually break and fall to the ground.

Foliage loss to overstory cherry is, in most instances, probably negligible. Even when the crown of a large black cherry appears “thin” (Fig. 3), plenty of foliage remains to keep the tree healthy. Most forest trees possess more foliage than they need to survive, or for that matter, to grow. For example, we know that a sugar maple can lose at least 50 per cent of its foliage to leaf-feeding insects without suffering major stress.

Damage to cherry saplings and seedlings, however, may significantly impact the development and future value of a young cherry. Though *Archips* will attack expanding shoots throughout a cherry’s crown, the terminal bud on the main stem is a common target. Circumstantial evidence suggests to me that eventually this damage may cause a fork in the stem of young trees. It would take long-




Figure 1. Typical early damage to young cherry stem infested with an *Archips* caterpillar. The blackened area where the shoot bends is where the entrance hole occurs.



Figure 2. A blackened, dried leaf of black cherry. The young shoot at the base of this leaf has been hollowed out by the caterpillar.



Figure 3. This thin-crowned overstory black cherry was heavily infested by Archips.

term observations of damaged stems to verify this. I examined several cherry seedlings and saplings in an infested area this summer and came to the conclusion that deer browsing kills far more terminals than does the larva of Archips! 

This is the 94th 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.ny.gov/animals/31301.html>.

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News & Notes (continued)

Asian Longhorned Beetle and Sirex Wood Wasp by restricting the importation, transportation and sale of untreated firewood.

The action closely follows measures imposed by Pennsylvania and other states to stem the proliferation of invasive species that can wipe out trees in forests and neighborhoods.

Many exotic pests can be transported long distances unintentionally via human activity – especially the hauling of firewood. To limit this possibility, effective immediately New York will prohibit the importation of out-of-state firewood that has not been treated to eliminate invasive species, fungi and pathogens that can kill millions of trees. The regulations also limit the transportation of untreated firewood within the state to less than 50 miles from the point of origin.

These new measures, available at: www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/2359.html, are emergency regulations, effective for 90 days. Meanwhile, DEC will be submitting a formal rulemaking proposal to the Governor's Office of Regulatory Reform (GORR) for review. GORR's approval would initiate a public-involvement process leading to a permanent firewood regulation.


Notably, the regulations do not affect homeowners cutting wood on their own property for use on that same property. They also do not affect firewood being transported through New York for sale and use in another state.

In Memoriam Fred E. Winch

CONCORD, NH - Fred E. Winch, 93, of Pleasant View, died Saturday, May 17, 2008. He was born in Framingham, MA on June 16, 1914, the son of Fred and Emma (Borgesson) Winch. He graduated from the University of ME at Orono and received his Masters Degree in Forestry in 1937 from Cornell University.

He was an assistant and associate Professor at Cornell University from 1943-1975. Mr. Winch was the first inductee into the National Maple Museum's Hall of Fame and was Professor Emeritus at Cornell University since 1975. He served as a Selectman for the Town of Bradford

from 1977-1983 and was chairman from 1979-1983.

He was a Director of the NH Timberland Owners Association from 1977-1985 and was a member of the NH State Tree Farm Committee, the NH Forestry Communications Council, and a member of the UNH Cooperative Extension Advisory Committee for Merrimack County. While at Cornell, Mr. Winch developed two research extension facilities in NYS, including the Henry Uihlein Sugar Maple Research and Extension Field Station in Lake Placid. In 1995 Mr. Winch received the Outstanding Alumni Award from the Alumni Association of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University. In 2004 the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences named Mr. Winch a Charter Member of the Liberty Hyde Bailey Leadership Society. He was NY's State Extension Forester for more than 30 years. 

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When the Bears Come Out To Play

ED & WANDA PIESTRAK

Several years ago we embarked on an aggressive tree planting project of both conifers and hardwoods. The conifers appeared to have survived the deer, with the exception of several hundred white pine, which the deer kept at the infant stage for a few years. The hardwoods were another story. We felt that the hardwoods—oaks, maple and cherry—had to be protected from the deer. This was because the first evening we planted two dozen oak seedlings in an isolated open area, when we returned to the site the following day each and every one of the seedlings had the leading buds severed. We knew something had to be done.

We explored protecting the hardwood seedlings and thus ordered over 1,000 four foot tree tubes. We manufactured treated lumber tree stakes that were five foot long and very sturdy.

Over a two year period we planted the hardwoods and immediately placed a tree tube over the seedlings. Some survived this process and we were

somewhat optimistic with the outcome. The moles and deer did not damage nor consume them.

However, we have an area on the property that we have named “The Playground.” This particular area has a tree that according to our forester had at that time been marked by at least two different bears. Nearby bushes had been obviously matted down. We knew there were bears on the property as we saw several families with mothers and cubs. They were so cute and playful. Little did we know that these playful little bears would play havoc with our tree tubes. What we began to notice is that the tree tubes were being bent in half and marked with claw and teeth marks. Some were actually torn off the stakes. As you can imagine the trees inside the damaged tubes did not survive. As the trees got larger, the bears got more aggressive and with the tree a foot or two out of the tube, they would bend the tree tube in half and kill the tree.

We have taken hundreds of tubes from the woods due to this damage.

Why would the bears do so much damage? Upon examination, we noticed most of the tubes had a bees nest inside them. The bees appeared to like the warmth and protection of the tubes. Bears like bees and their larva and thus would be one reason for the damage. Also, we noticed that tubes placed along side a path, trail or road were the first ones attacked. Furthermore, when there were no bees in the tubes early in the spring the bears would still damage the tubes. It appeared they were curious to see this light colored plastic in the woods and had just come to play. We believe the bears were attracted to the tubes for their color and something different to do besides turning over stumps and logs for food stuff. Last month we placed a ten foot long four inch diameter plastic pipe to hold up a deserted power line on the property. When we returned a week later, the pipe was moved 100 feet from the site, serious teeth and claw marks in the pipe. There were no bees in that new pipe since we had just installed it.

The picture to the left is an example of the tubes we removed this past September. We have been removing the damaged tubes throughout the summer. What we are trying to do now is to remove the tubes that the bears have not damaged. We are leaving the lower part – 1½ feet – and cutting the top off of the tube. This has curtailed the bear activity however this is very labor intensive and since the trees are spread over hundreds of acres it is difficult to get to all of them.

Therefore, if you should have a bear population on your land, we would not recommend utilizing tree tubes since they are labor intensive, expensive, and provide limited success. ▲



Ed and Wanda Piestrak's grandson Joshua, age 12, shows the damage done to the tree tubes by the bears.

The SFI® Program

How can you tell if the products you buy have been produced with the well-being of the forest in mind? Certification and product labeling increase a consumer's ability to encourage good forest stewardship through the purchasing decisions they make.

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The Lyme Timber Company is just one of the many companies that are certified to the SFI Standards of Sustainability and participate in the New York State SFI Implementation Committee.



A cut-to-length logging system conducting a thinning on some of Lyme Timber's property in the Adirondacks.

The Lyme Timber Company

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To learn more visit lymetimber.com or contact Lyme Timber's Forestry Manager, Sean Ross at 603-643-330 x.132.



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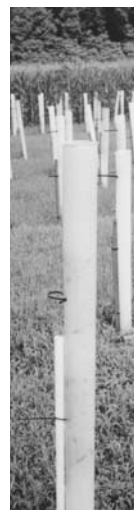
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Member Profile: *Ron and Peggy Pedersen*

ALEXANDRA SILVA

Though there was not much talk of environmental or forest sustainability during the 1940's, Ron Pedersen's parents purchased a 200 acre property in Broome County with the intention of "doing what is right" from the natural resources point of view. Ron's father loved trees and seeing things grow and long dreamed of owning land in the country, stemming perhaps from his holidays to Wales while growing up in inner-city Liverpool, England. Ron's parents lived in northeastern New Jersey, and as such, Ron was raised in a suburban atmosphere, but spent summers and weekends on their New York property while growing up.

The property, located in the narrow valley stretching north from the Village of Deposit, was the first of the farms to be purchased by "a city slicker," but many would follow suit in the Southern Tier as poorly drained, shallow soils, stone and topography stymied the demands of

modern dairy farming. While pasturing for neighbors' young stock continued for a few years after the 1944 purchase, immediate changes set the stage for the future: livestock was fenced out of the woods, the first of many plantations was established, and relationships were formed with foresters in NY's Conservation Department, predecessor to the Department of Environmental Conservation. To this day, Ron points to state forester Gerry Kachmor and his predecessors for their valuable advice and guidance through the year

Since 1944, thousands of trees have been planted on the property – mostly red pine, Norway spruce, and larch, but also some Austrian pine, Scots pine, white spruce, and Douglas fir, making up about a third of the farm. Ron describes his role in the earliest of the plantations as that of a "reluctant teenager," planting in the cold April rain and snow with

his Dad and brothers. He now, however, appreciates the need to help people understand that the newspapers they read and the tables where meals are eaten are the result of judgments made many years ago.

About one third of the property is hardwoods, predominantly hard and soft maple, black cherry and white ash. The passing years have seen the hardwood areas expand as pole stands have become established in previously open areas.

The final third is what Ron calls "other," which includes brushy transition zones, and areas kept open by the brush hog about every other year. Additional areas could be planted, but Ron and his wife, Peggy, prefer a landscape regimen of heavily wooded to ponds to open areas, with everything in between. The wildlife like it that way, too.

The Pedersens have had three hardwood harvests over the years. The first was in 1978 in the poorest area of the woods, with most of the wood going for pulp. With the marking done by a state forester, the purpose was to rid the area of poorly formed trees that were simply taking up space and nutrients. Now, thirty years later, there are a number of stems that have promise of becoming valuable trees.

More recently and in a different area, the second two harvests were also aimed at improving the woodlot by opening up the canopy and by salvaging some storm-damaged trees. While non-commercial improvement cutting had been done through the years, Ron states that these harvests, marked and managed by consulting forester Michael Greason, were the first of value after some 50 years of nurturing.

Through the years, Ron and Peggy have done a lot of thinning/culling in the plantations. The pines, larch and spruce were planted on seven or eight foot spacing, which disciplines the trees to grow up rather than out, but leads to the need for repeated culling. For the Pedersens, culling plantations is a do-it-yourself job, made possible and satisfying with help from their 40 hp John Deere (Ron's retirement present to himself) and Farmi winch.



The original farm house was re-sided with larch cut from trees planted by Ron in his youth.

continued on page 22



Ron Pedersen standing by a woodpile on his property.

In recent years, virtually all the thinnings have been saleable from the roadside. Most of Ron's red pine thinnings have gone full length to a log homes firm, while larch has been sold locally and the spruce has been shipped to Canada.

Ron built a small barn on the site of the earlier cow barn using wood harvested from their property. The poplar rafters, framing and roof boards, and the larch board and batten siding were sawn on site from trees the Pedersens had planted. Only the pressure treated posts were purchased. They later put matching larch board and batten siding on their house.

Ron and Peggy met at Cornell University, where Ron received his bachelor's in Agricultural Economics and master's in Land Economics, and Peggy earned her master's in Home Economics Education. Peggy worked as a cooperative extension agent in Tioga County while Ron was in graduate school, and after they moved to the Albany area, she raised their daughters, taught part time and directed a church-run day care center.

The teenagers from Peggy's church sell some Christmas trees and make well over a hundred wreaths each year to help fund their annual summer work camp. According to Ron, it is a fun day each November when the teenagers come to cut the

trees and greens for wreath making. One spring, they helped to plant some replacement trees.

Ron's career has been with New York State Government. Evolving over some 34 years from the Department of Taxation and Finance to the Governor's program office to DEC to staff in the State Senate, Ron retired at the end of 1994. Peggy followed suit a year later.

The Pedersens are charter members of the New York Forest Owners Association. Peggy served on the Board of Directors during NYFOA's earliest years, and Ron's turn came in the '90s, including his service as state President. He is a Master Forest Owner Volunteer, and continues his strong interest in private landowner activities.

The Pedersen's have been certified by the American Tree Farm System for over 25 years, and were named New York's Outstanding Tree Farmers in 1998. Ron has received Cornell University Cooperative Extension's Friend of Extension award, and was voted an Honorary Member of the Society of American Foresters - only the fifth New Yorker to be so recognized.


Over the last twelve years, Ron has worked to raise awareness of timber theft and the steps needed to help curb it. He feels landowners must have boundaries clearly marked and use sound contracts, dishonest loggers must receive quick and effective attention from law enforcement agencies, and buyers and mills must know the source of purchased logs.

His efforts, along with others, have resulted in new laws to clarify DEC's responsibilities and increased penalties for timber theft.

In 2007, Ron and Dr. Hugh Canham, Professor Emeritus, SUNY College of Environmental Sciences and Forestry, prepared, distributed and compiled a survey on timber theft, which was helpful to the Joint Legis-

lative Commission on Rural Resources as it continues its efforts to thwart the illegal taking of timber.

In addition to his work with timber theft, Ron and Peggy welcome the use of their property for research purposes. In the 1990's, entomologists from SUNY-ESF used the property as a laboratory to study the Peach Bark Beetle - an insect that seriously damages black cherry trees. More recently, Dr. Peter Smallidge, State Extension Forester from Cornell University, has begun testing use of a flame thrower for eradication of multi-flora rose, a very persistent invasive.

Like many families, questions of succession were difficult for the Pedersens. Ron and his brother recognized that with 60 years behind them, a good start had been made to overcoming the previous years of neglect and mistreatment of the woods. With Ron and Peggy's daughters settled in California, and his brother's sons also not in a clear path for continuing management, they decided to put the farm under a conservation easement, which is a permanent deed restriction. Easements can have a wide array of provisions, but in their case, while prohibiting development, the easement allows and encourages natural resource management consistent with a forest management plan. Hence, while future owners may not be forced to properly manage the land as we would like, the updated management plan will preclude gross mismanagement. 

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

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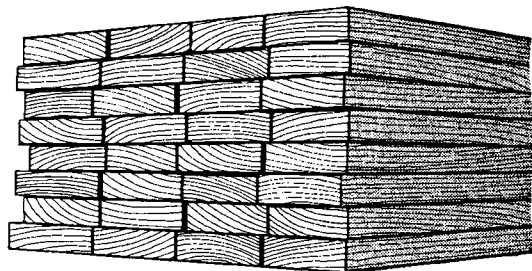
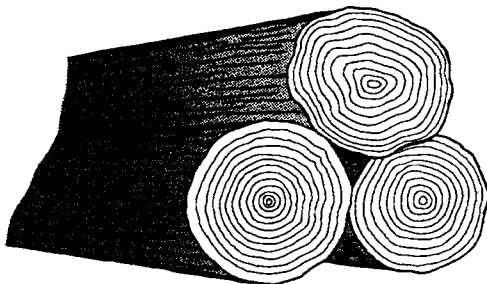
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