The New York Forest Owner

A Publication of The New York Forest Owners Association

For people caring about New York's trees and forests

November/December 2011

Member Profile: Larry Phillips

Volume 49 Number 6

NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION
People Caring About NY's Trees and Forests
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www.nyfoa.org

In This Issue . . .

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Volume 49, Number 6

The New York Forest Owner is a bi-monthly publication of The New York Forest Owners Association, PO Box 541, Lima, NY 14485. Materials submitted for publication should be sent to: ***Mary Beth Malmsheimer****, Editor, The New York Forest Owner, 134 Lincklaen Street, Cazenovia, New York 13035. Materials may also be e-mailed to mmalmshe@syr.edu. Articles, artwork and photos are invited and if requested, are returned after use.* ***The deadline for submission for the January/February issue is Decdmber 1, 2011.***

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

This publication is printed on Finch Opaque, Smooth, 70 lb. text paper. Located in the beautiful Adirondacks, Finch has long understood that the viability of our business relies on the wise use—and reuse—of resources. Finch papers are made with renewable energy, post-consumer recycled fiber and elemental chlorine-free pulps. In addition, Finch Paper was the first integrated paper mill in the US to received both the Forest Management and Chain of Custody certifications from the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

www.nyfoa.org

Cover: Larry Phillips in front of the pile of firewood he cut to heat their home. For member profile turn to page 21. Photo courtesy of Beti Spangel.

From The President

Recently I had the opportunity to participate in The Game of Logging, Level 1. The weather may have been rainy but the spirits of participants were anything but damp. The day's experiences ranged from the cerebral learning the finer points (pun intended) of the care and nurturing of chainsaw teeth, safety to-do's and check lists to the heart-thumping activity of felling moderate size (16″ trees). My thanks to instructor **Bill Lindloff** for his patience with me and my classmates, NYFOA member **Jim Miller** for making his land and his trees available for this course, and **Mike Seager** for pulling it all together. Any one who works with a chainsaw in the woods is encouraged to take this course if they haven't already.

For those of you who may have missed it, DEC's **Gloria Van Duyne** was kind enough to mention NYFOA in a sidebar of her article, *Wonderful Wood*, in this October's issue of *New York State Conservationist*. Every bit of beneficial exposure our organization gets helps promote our mission of sustainable forestry practices and improved woodlands stewardship. If any of our readers see similar opportunities to let a broader audience know of our mission we hope you will be able to take advantage of it and if you need help, let any of our officers, including of course me, know.

Closure was brought to a couple of issues your board of directors has been dealing with. We received the formal letter from the IRS stating that as a result of the audit (mentioned in last month's column) we had met the conditions for compliance with being a 501(c)(3) organization.

Also, in November of 2008, NYFOA's then-Executive Director, **Mary Jeanne Packer**, on behalf of NYFOA, applied for and was awarded a USDA Forest Service grant entitled Promoting NIPF (Non Industrial Private Forests) as a Future Woody Bioenergy Feedstock. Work has continued on the grant since then and was formally completed in September. Special thanks go to NYFOA then-treasurer **Mike Birmingham** and Office Administrator **Liana Gooding** for dealing with the administrative aspects of the grant but most especially to ESF's (and NYFOA Board Member) **René Germain** and Warren County CCE's **Laurel Gailor** for doing the real leg work to accomplish the goals of the grant.

By now you should have received my letter on behalf of your board soliciting contributions to NYFOA. Even though all board member and officer positions are unpaid (and individuals have to pay all their own associated expenses), members should be aware that we continue to offer membership at rates that do not cover our cost of operations. We want to keep our rates low so that individuals/families under a broad range of economic circumstances can continue to afford to learn about wise management practices for their land. Your additional giving helps assure that this practice will continue and for that **we sincerely thank you**!

We note with sadness the passing of one of our Board Members, Bob Morrison, a dedicated woodsman and strong supporter of the principles of NYFOA. His presence and services will be greatly missed.

–Jim Minor
NYFOA President

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 helps the interested public to appreciate the importance of New York's forests.

Join NYFOA today and begin to receive its many benefits including: six issues of ***The New York Forest Owner***, woodswalks, chapter meetings, and statewide meetings.

( ) I/We own _____acres of woodland.
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Woodlot Pizza:

Build a Wood-Fired Brick Oven

Dean Faklis and Justin Perkins

Many of the projects around our woodlot take years to complete and consume vast quantities of calories in the process. As we are fond of replenishing those calories and instant gratification, here is a project that we completed in a couple of hours and that involved the whole family. After all, who doesn't like wood-fired pizza?

Over the years, we have built several brick ovens that range from super simple and portable to very elaborate and quite permanent. They are all capable of making the best pizza you have ever eaten and some are used to make authentic artisan breads. Here we'll describe a simple, semi-portable brick oven with integral griddle that can be used to cook pizzas, breakfasts and lunches at the woodlot.

We decided we needed an oven capable of making two 10-inch pizzas at the same time. In addition, we thought it would be great to be able to cook eggs, bacon, pancakes, burgers and hotdogs. Based on experience, these requirements point to a brick hearth that measures about 34″ across by 24″ deep. A comfortable hearth height is about 36″-40″ above ground level.

All brick pizza ovens have a few items in common; firebricks, a stand, and a cover. For this oven, we chose low duty firebrick (2.5"x4.5"x9", 9 lbs each), which is fine for our pizzas and hearth temperatures of between 700-900F degrees. Although firebrick is not cheap at between $1.50-$2.00 each, it is the most suitable for repeated thermal cycling and should last several lifetimes if not abused and kept dry. We chose concrete blocks and white pine for the stand and steel plate for the griddle. All told, we used 66 full-sized firebrick, a dozen concrete blocks, two 2-foot pieces of angle iron, and a 22″ x 36″x3/8″ steel plate. Total cost for this oven is about $150. Smaller ovens capable of baking a single pizza and without the steel plate can be built for much less.

We started by creating a level area in a safe location by digging a shallow rect-

continued on page 17

A simple, semi-portable brick oven with integral griddle that can be used to cook pizzas, breakfasts and lunches at the woodlot

NYFOA STORE

Show your support for the Association! All items display the NYFOA logo.

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   Grey M, L, XL

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Make check payable to NYFOA. Send the completed form to: NYFOA, P.O. Box 541, Lima, New York 14485. Questions? Call 800-836-3566

Ask A Professional

Peter Smallidge, Steve Childs, and Mike Farrell

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

Woodland Owner and Maple Producer Response to Severe Weather

Question:
What considerations are relevant for those who manage or work in woodlands in the aftermath of flooding from late summer storms?

Response:

In late August and early September 2011, much of eastern NY was exposed to severely strong winds and heavy rains due to Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. There was considerable damage to residences and businesses in the region. A subset of the broader damage is the thousands of owners of private woodland properties and maple production facilities that may have experienced some amount of damage. Some sugarhouses in low lying areas might have suffered flooding. Three simple guidelines will help owners of rural property take appropriate action. The guidelines are similar to those recommended following the 1998 ice storm in the northern forests: safety first, seek professional assistance, and take time to make informed decisions.

Woodland owners and maple producers who go into their woodlots and sugarbushes need to prioritize safety. Numerous circumstances might compromise owner and producer safety. First, in the next several weeks, tree tops and branches that might have been broken, but not fallen, will eventually fall from the upper canopy. Second, many owners and producers will need to use a chainsaw or other equipment to clear trails, tubing systems, and collect firewood from downed trees. Using a chainsaw requires the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) such as cut-resistant chaps and a logger's helmet. Using a chainsaw also requires personal protective behavior (PPB) such as avoiding high risk situations, analyzing downed wood for tension, and participating in appropriate chainsaw training such as Game of Logging. Tractors and ATVs should be used with caution to avoid tipping hazards. Third, trees and branches that fell during or after the storm are often twisted and under tension. These trees under tension require extra skill to safely cut and utilize.

Woodland owners and maple producers should seek assistance from trained professionals about their woods and the best response to correct and respond if there was damage from the storms. Foresters are trained to develop and implement woodland or forest management plans. These plans describe the property in terms of the owner's objectives. The plan also provides an annual work schedule of suggested tasks. Given the potential for damage created by storms, the work schedule previously in place may need to be adjusted. If damage

Tree stems that break during wind storms can create significant hazards associated with suspended branches and unknown tension on other stems they are contacting. The best practice is often to wait several days or weeks until the loosened branches have fallen. Owners should not try to salvage or clean up suspended tops.

is extensive, foresters can inventory the extent of damage and administer a sale to salvage some value. Loggers, particularly those participating in NY's Trained Logger Certification, are trained to safely and efficiently cut, skid and buck logs to optimize the value acquired from the harvest. Loggers should know how to cut and skid to minimize damage to the residual trees. Loggers will also know how to work with foresters to install best management practices that protect soil and water quality. Foresters will know the best process to select a logger and develop a timber sale contract, if a sale is the best course of action. Information on finding foresters and loggers is also available in the publications section of *www.ForestConnect.info*

Finally, owners and producers may feel a strong need to take immediate corrective action in regard to storm damage. However, while the impacts of the storm are visually dramatic, other than potential safety or priority access issues, there are few if any woodland and sugarbush situations that require immediate action. Owners and maple producers should review their management plan, work with their forester to inspect the extent of damage, and discuss the actions that are appropriate for the property and owner's objectives. Owners should be wary of anyone offering their services to immediately solve some problem or feel the need to make a hasty ill-informed decision. Maple producers should evaluate the extent of damage to their sugarhouses, tubing systems or trails used to collect sap buckets. If tubing systems are damaged, this might be a good time to review the new Maple Tubing Manual available through the Cornell Maple Program at *www.CornellMaple.info* or directly from Steve Childs at *slc18@cornell.edu*.

There are some additional special considerations for maple producers. The extent of damage to tubing systems and production facilities should be documented to allow producers to access financial assistance that might become available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Producers should consult a local FEMA representative about the potential and process for financial assistance. Foliage loss at this time of year has minimal if any impact on sap production next spring. Similarly, breakage of small branches will not adversely affect sap production or tree health. If large branches are broken, collecting sap in spring 2012 probably won't appreciably affect the likelihood of survival of the tree. Many sugarhouses are located in lower topographic areas or near streams to facilitate sap collection. These lower areas may have been flooded. Special concern exists to make sure the building structure is safe and stable, particularly the foundation and electrical service. Stainless steel items should be thoroughly cleaned. Porous materials, such as filters, should be replaced.

In strong winds trees can snap or up-root. The up-rooted, or windthrown, tree creates multiple hazards associated with tension on the tree that has tipped, tension in the tree(s) that support the tipped tree, and the potential for the root ball to fall back into the hole. Extreme caution is warranted for anyone attempting to work with this type of situation. Keep children away from the root mat and pit.

Periodic, large scale and potentially severe meteorological events are a legitimate risk in New York's woodlands. In NY during the last 15 years, there have been at least 2 significant ice storms and 2 significant flood events affecting multi-county areas. The historical record shows many other storm events over the last 100 or more years. Additional severe, but smaller-scale storm events have also occurred. Damage may be directly to the trees, or more broadly to the infrastructure that supports the woodland and maple production. Owners should explicitly recognize the potential for these events and adjust their plans to minimize the likelihood of severe damage.

Woodland owners and maple producers who aren't sure how to get started can contact their local office of Cornell University Cooperative Extension (*www.cce.cornell.edu*) or their local private lands forester from the Department of Environmental Conservation (*http://www.dec.ny.gov/about/27790.html*).

Response by: Peter Smallidge, NYS Extension Forester, Steve Childs, Director Cornell Maple Program, and Mike Farrell, Uihlein Maple Forest Director. Cornell University Cooperative Extension, Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

New York State Tree Farm News

ERIN O'NEILL

I think I'm might be a Tree Farmer…

I've run into some Tree Farmers lately who either used to be registered or can't remember when the last time they saw their forester was, so I thought I'd use my space this issue to answer a few questions I am getting lately. Tree Farm is now Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) endorsed and 3rd party audited. This means we meet a standard of sustainability reserved for people practicing excellent forestry on their property. If you think you used to be a Tree Farmer but can't remember when, you've probably been listed as inactive and need to contact your forester about updating your inspection records and management plan.

We're very excited to be able to meet the 3rd party certification standards and promote what the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) name has always stood for and I hope you'll join us as we get everyone on board and up to date. For 70 years the ATFS has been enhancing the quality of America's woodlands and is now a network of more than 95,000 woodland owners nationwide representing 26 million acres of sustainably managed forestland!

If you'd like to learn more about the NY Tree Farm certification program remember, a Tree Farm representative is only a phone call or e-mail away.

What if I don't know who my inspector is?

This is no problem. Contact Liana Gooding at *nytreefarm@hotmail.com* or 800-836-3566 and she can try to find your inspector of record. If she can't locate the information, she can refer you to an inspecting forester in your area who can help you.

Can I become a member of ATFS if I don't have a written management plan?

No. You must have a written management plan and must meet American Forest Foundation (AFF) Standards and guidelines to belong. If you are interested, an inspecting forester can help develop a written management plan.

Do Tree Farmers only produce wood?

No. ATFS values are stated on our green and white Tree Farm sign, "wood, water, wildlife and recreation." Tree Farmers produce many products that benefit society, and wood production is only one area of sustainable forestry.

If I am a certified Tree Farmer, will timber buyers recognize this distinction?

Yes. ATFS is recognized as a source of timber which has been sustainably produced, which is a very important to some timber buyers. ATFS is working on providing real time verification of Tree Farm membership status to assist members.

What happens if I fail to meet the standards on my re-inspection?

ATFS members who fail to meet the certification requirements during their re-inspection may be decertified if they do not remedy the situation. The decertification process is initiated by the inspecting foresters and is carried out through the state committees. All landowners will be informed if their property is in danger of being decertified and will have an opportunity to participate in the process.

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

Kid's Corner

Rebecca Hargrave

This could be your photo here!

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, and it may end up on this page!

The Twist of the Vine

Make a wreath to decorate, a basket to carry, or a pack to haul. Weaving is an ancient art, performed by cultures all over the world using plants and products local to their surroundings. Here in New York we are fortunate to have multiple plants that we can use to make wreaths, baskets, and packs.

Wreaths are probably the easiest to make, and the most commonly found and used is grapevine. Wild grapes climb up into the canopies of trees and sprawl on our fences. If you don't have some on your property, I'm sure you have a neighbor who is happy to share some with you. Once you've found your source, prune/pull out some of the long thin pieces; they will be easier to wrap and weave than those very thick ends. Collect more than you think you will need, a lot is needed for a plump wreath. Once you have your vines, you can use a bucket as a form to wrap and twist your vines around. Secure ends with twine, then let the wreath set and dry for a week and decorate as you please. Remember that you can collect other woods items (cones, dried leaves, dried berries, other twigs) to use as decorations. Complete wreath making instructions can be found at the Cornell Garden Based Learning site: *http://blogs.cornell.edu/garden/files/2009/01/grapevine-wreaths.pdf*.

Baskets are incredibly useful and easy to make. You can make a small basket for holding change or one large enough to store blankets. There are a number of shrubs in New York that provide suitable twigs for basket making, especially willow. The wispy willow branches easily bend without breaking, allowing them to be formed into rounded shapes. Willows can be found along creeks, in wet hedgerows, or in wetland areas. Prune out a few willow rods to use as the frame and a number of long thin stems to do the weaving with. Cut your rods to the length you want, lay them on top of each other like a star, overlapping in the middle, and secure your first willow weaver. Follow the classic, over, under, over under with the weavers, pulling the rods up into a bowl form as you go. Numerous patterns can be found online for baskets of all sizes and shapes. When you're choosing your willow, remember that different species have different colored twigs; and if you want you can throw in some red osier or yellow alternate-leaved dogwood stems for color, too!

Packs are an Adirondack tradition. Traditionally woven from black ash splints, these packs were designed to haul heavy loads long distances through rough terrain. Ash logs are felled and then hand pounded until the rings of wood split apart. The splints are then skillfully crafted into beautiful packs (and baskets). Adirondack packs were commonly seen on guides and hunters and are still prized possessions today.

While making a pack takes more advanced weaving skills, with some basic basket weaving experience you can give this project a try, too. You can purchase kits, or buy the plans then find a black ash and make your own splints — you'll probably need an adults help with that part. Black ash trees grow in swamps and wet areas and winter is a wonderful time to harvest them as the wet ground is frozen. Also, black ash trees are at risk due to the Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive insect that will affect all our native ash trees. Cutting ash trees to make baskets and packs is okay; just learn about the borer and what you can do to slow its spread. Go to *http://www.nyis.info*.

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

Wild Things in Your Woodlands

Kristi Sullivan

Black bear (*Ursus americanus*)

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

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

As fall borders on winter, New York's 8,000 black bears are finishing their fall feast, after eating heartily for months in preparation for dormancy. Though typically most active at dusk and dawn, during the fall they may feed for up to 20 hours a day, ingesting up to 20,000 calories! Bears are omnivorous, eating almost anything, from berries, corn, acorns, beechnuts and even grass, to table scraps, dead animals, honey and insects. In a recent study of fawn survival in Pennsylvania, bears surprisingly were a major predator of fawns, second only to coyotes.

As cold weather arrives, black bears end the feast and seek out den sites. Though black bears are not true hibernators, they usually undergo a dormant period during the winter. Typically, female bears enter a den during October or November, and males enter their dens in November or December. The winter den may be a hollow tree or log, a crevice in a rock ledge, a cavity under a large rock or beneath the roots of a tree, or a "nest" on top of the ground or under fallen trees or brush. Bears will also den in drainage culverts or a depression dug in the ground. Some bears line their dens with bark, grasses or leaves. Females often select more sheltered sites than males. Males den alone, as do pregnant females (they give birth in the den), and females with cubs born the previous winter den with

their young. A dormant bear's heart rate and breathing slow, and its body temperature drops slightly. During this time they do not eat, drink, or pass body wastes, and may lose a quarter of their body weight. A dormant bear relies on stored fat to make it through the winter, however, they may emerge if they're disturbed. Males leave their dens in March or April. Females and their cubs leave their dens later, sometimes as late as May.

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

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

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

Additional information on about the black bear and wildlife damage issues can be found at *http://wildlifecontrol.info/pubs/Documents/Bears/BlackBear.pdf*

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

Do you want access to woodlot, wildlife, agroforestry, maple and other related information at your finger tips? Internet resources exist and help connect NY woodland owners to unbiased research-based information. Check out Cornell Cooperative Extension – Woodlots on the Internet

- Publications, webinars, links to resources, FAQs, and more at www.ForestConnect.info
- Got Questions (and answers) at www.ForestConnect.info/forum
- Calendar of workshops offered by the CCE Department of Natural Resources www.DNRCCE.com
- Social networking via www.FaceBook.com search for "ForestConnect"
- Micro blogging at www.Twitter.com/CornellWoodlot

Unlocking the Economic Potential of Your Woodlot

Carl Wiedemann

According to a recent survey[1] of family forest owners in New York State, timber production is not the primary reason for ownership. But chances are that if you own a woodlot of thirty acres or more you'll eventually have the opportunity to sell some timber. If you have good timber it's not difficult to find a buyer. In fact, it's likely a buyer will find you. You might get a letter or perhaps someone will knock on the door—"Your woodlot has some sawtimber. We specialize in selective harvesting. Would you be interested in selling the mature trees?"

This is where things get tricky. If you say "yes," you'll get an offer based on the value of the best trees in the woodlot—or at least what the buyer thinks is a high enough amount to close the deal. If you proceed with the sale, that's exactly what will be cut—the best timber you have. What's left will be whatever the buyer can't sell very profitably. People call this selective harvesting because not all the trees are cut and it is a less pejorative term than high-grading—but this is still high-grading. High-grading is a timber harvest that removes the trees of commercial value, leaving small trees, as well as large ones of poor quality and of low-value species in the woodlot.[2] And, according to the Society of American Foresters, about 80% of family forest owners sell timber this way.[3]

Suppose you're a bit more knowledgeable and decide to use a consulting forester, have the timber marked and get competitive bids. A consulting forester should start by asking about your ownership objectives. How important is getting the most money you can for the timber in your woodlot? For most people who decide to sell timber, getting top dollar is pretty important. But if you tell the consulting forester; "I want to get as much as I can for my timber" this may translate into marking and selling all the best trees you have. You'll get a good price, and you'll still have a woodlot after the timber is gone. However, the woodlot will be depleted and the next sale will have much less value. Selling all the good timber in a single harvest and leaving the rest makes no more sense than spending the entire principle of your retirement account in one year when your goal is to continue earning future returns.

A silviculturally sound and carefully conducted timber harvest improves the health, productivity and future value of the woodlot.

If you're interested in long-term management, the trees that are left growing after a timber sale are just as important as the trees that are cut. The essence of forest conservation is leaving an adequate number of well spaced, healthy, high-value trees to produce seedlings for regeneration and to become part of the next harvest. A silviculturally sound harvest means that you won't get as much for your current timber sale because you're not selling all the best trees. And the logger will be cutting some low value trees to improve the future quality and condition of the woodlot. But you can think of this approach as an investment in your woodlot—and one that will pay high future returns. Silviculture is the art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition and

Table 1. Comparison of Treatment Returns Unmanaged Northern Hardwoods

Type of Harvest	Initial Harvest Income per Acre	Future Productivity in bf/Ac/Yr	Average Value of Residuals/ Mbf	Value of Growth Acre/Year
High-grading Cut All the Best	$300	65	$75	$5
Cut Some of the Best & Some of the Rest	$225	100	$150	$15
Cut the Worst First	$150	200	$225	$45

Board Feet (bf); Thousands Board Feet (Mbf); Acre (Ac)

health of forests to meet the needs of landowners and society on a sustainable basis.

Consider the following consequences of only selling the most valuable trees you have:

- Cutting the best and leaving the rest can reduce future value by 75 to 90%.[4]
- Millions of acres in the eastern hardwood region have been so degraded by this type of exploitation that there is little left to manage.[5]
- Future productivity and ecological services are diminished.[6]

In Europe, where forestry was originally developed and most privately owned woodlands are managed with silviculture for the long term, landowners harvest three times the volume of timber per acre than landowners in New York State[7]. Although several factors contribute to Europe's higher productivity, forest management is probably the most important.

We know silviculture improves productivity, but specifically how much is this worth to the woodlot owner? The example above (table 1) shows how the value of future growth (board feet - bf) is affected by which trees are harvested. Keep in mind that every woodlot is different. These suggested returns might be considered average for woodlots that have not been previously high-graded. The numbers are based on calculations using the DEC stumpage price report and the Silvicultural Guide for Northern Hardwood Types.

Note that high-grading yields the highest immediate income which makes it a very tempting choice for many woodland owners. But also examine the right hand column – the value of future timber growth per acre per year. Although the initial income is lower, notice how dramatically forest management can increase the value of annual growth – even a modest amount of silviculture. How many landowners would not be interested in a consistent return of $45 per acre per year from periodic timber sales? That potential return should stimulate some serious thinking about long-term management and silviculture. And consider that after a woodlot has been high-graded, it often takes decades of cutting the "worst first" and other rehabilitation measures before it can again consistently produce the $45 per acre per year return.

For those who want some additional evidence that appropriate forest management could significantly increase the financial returns from a woodlot, consider the following. These are calculations using information from the Silvicultural Guide for Northern Hardwood Types[8], the DEC stumpage price report[9], and the Forest Resource Survey of New York State by the Forest Service[10]. They show what a forest owner could realize from timber management.

The silvicultural guide says; "With moderately intensive silviculture, managed stands can yield at least 50 percent more volume than unmanaged stands." So the potential volume increase is expressed as a factor of 1.5.

The silvicultural guide includes a product distribution table below (table 2). It shows the types of timber products that might be harvested from a typical unmanaged northern hardwood stand compared with the effect of applying silvicultural guidelines on timber quality.

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Table 2. Comparison of Product Distribution

Timber Product	Unmanaged Woodlot	Managed Woodlot
Veneer	2%	6%
High Quality Sawlogs	3%	9%
Medium Quality Sawlogs	40%	50%
Low Quality Sawlogs	15%	15%
Pallet Stock	40%	20%

Woodland Health

A column focusing on topics that might limit the health, vigor and productivity of our private or public woodlands

Coordinated by Mark Whitmore

Beech Bark Disease: Hope in Beech Hell?

By Charles Canham

Forest owners and managers face a seemingly endless litany of new forest pests and pathogens. In the Hudson Valley where I live, I now view every ash tree with a mixture of suspicion and despair. Many of my colleagues in forest ecology view the pests and pathogens introduced to northeastern forests over the past century to be the most significant human threat to our forests (Lovett et al. 2006). While media attention moves quickly to whatever is the newest threat, it is likely that the pest or pathogen that has had the most pervasive impact on northeastern forests has been beech bark disease (BBD) — one of the first to be accidentally introduced.

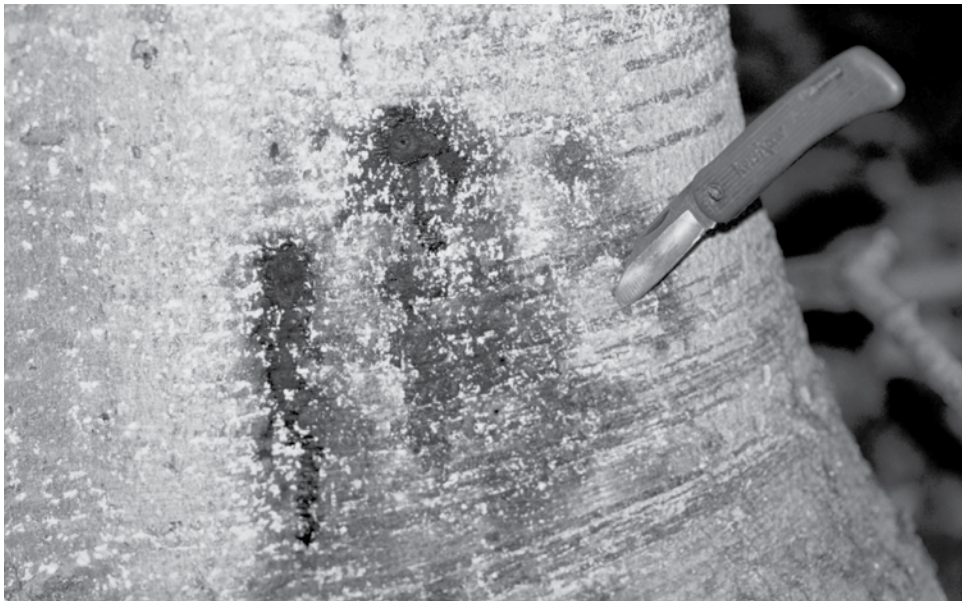
Beech bark disease is actually a complex of a scale insect (*Cryptococcus fagisuga*) that feeds on the bark of beech trees, and a set of pathogenic Nectria fungi (for which the taxonomy, as is often the case, is in flux). The fungi invade the bark via feeding injuries created by the insect, and cankers formed as the fungi spread underneath the bark eventually girdle the tree. The disease complex was introduced to Nova Scotia from Europe in the 1890's, and has been spreading inexorably ever since. In the last 10 years it has been found as far south as North Carolina, and as far west as Michigan, but has been present throughout New York since the 1970's.

While beech has never been a particularly highly prized timber species, it is one of the most widely distributed tree species in eastern forests, ranging from the Maritimes of Canada to the highlands of Mexico. It is one of the most shade tolerant species in our forests, and is a dominant of late successional stands throughout its range. In northern forests, it is one of our few producers of hard mast — the crops of large tree seeds on which many wildlife species depend.

While the disease is spreading slowly, and the death of an individual tree may be a slow process, BBD eventually has dramatic impacts, particularly on forest structure and productivity. Stands with a high proportion of beech tend to have low rates of increase in biomass, simply because a high abundance of beech is often an indication of a late successional, mature forest. But our recent research shows that within areas where BBD has been long present, there is a strong inverse and linear relationship between the relative abundance of beech in a stand and the biomass increment of the stand as a whole (Busby and Canham, 2010). In other words, when beech is more abundant there is less biomass accumulation in a stand. In states like Maine where the disease has been present for decades, stands where beech makes up more than 75% of the stand actually show declining biomass.

Since BBD has its greatest impact on large trees, the changes come mostly in the large size classes, with implications for both timber value and wildlife that depend on beech seed crops. Numerous studies have documented the almost complete collapse of larger size classes of beech trees in regions where BBD has been present for more than 20-40 years (Garnas et al. 2011). The death of the mature trees is followed typically by a proliferation of beech sprouts – the beech "hell" which any owner of a beech stand in New York is unfortunately familiar. Unlike the European beech,

Beech bark disease (Nectria coccinea) on European beech (Fagus sylvatica). Photo: Andrej Kunca, National Forest Centre - Slovakia, Bugwood.org.



beech bark disease (Nectria coccinea) on American beech (Fagus grandifolia). Photo: Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

the American beech is a prolific root sprouter, and in some portions of its range, root sprouting is the dominant mode of reproduction. Sprouting can be stimulated by wounding of roots, so there were early concerns that salvage logging in beech stands might be exacerbating the development of beech thickets, but sprout thickets can be found even in unmanaged stands.

Beech saplings have a distinctive characteristic that makes these thickets particularly problematic for both forest management and biodiversity. Thirty years ago I studied the comparative ecology of regeneration of sugar maple and beech in old growth forests in the Five Ponds Wilderness of the Adirondacks. As a young graduate student, I was fascinated by the differences in the architecture and growth patterns of the two species, and how those traits influenced their success at exploiting canopy openings. One of the most common traits of young trees is that in the shade their branches tend to spread out almost horizontally, to better capture light. But when those plants are exposed to higher light (when an overstory tree dies), their branches tend to be aligned more vertically. This lets them pack more leaf area into a given area of the ground, with less self-shading. Beech is the only species I know that does just the opposite. When given slightly more light, lateral branches on beech saplings actually become even more horizontal, and the saplings expand rapidly laterally, effectively choking off the gap, and allowing very little light to support regeneration of other species.

If you spend enough time in the woods you can still come across

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healthy, mature beech trees – presumably one of the individuals that is resistant to the disease by virtue of the chemistry of their bark. You'll be reminded just how majestic these trees can be, but the resistant individuals are relatively rare, and their distribution and abundance appears to vary regionally. More important from the perspective of the long-term health of beech populations, there is not much reason to hope that the resistant genotypes will rapidly spread and replace the susceptible individuals, because the susceptible genotypes continue to produce lots of sprouts that will succumb to the disease once they mature. But there is also hope in beech "hell." If (when) scientists find an effective control for the disease complex — either the scale insects or the pathogens — there is a large reservoir of beech regeneration ready and waiting. The same is true for the even more patient chestnut sprouts that dot our forests, waiting for us to find a control for chestnut blight.

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Charles Canham is a forest ecologist with the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, in Millbrook, NY.

Mark Whitmore is a forest entomologist in the Cornell University Department of Natural Resources and the chair of the NY Forest Health Advisory Council.

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Woodlot Pizza (continued)

angular hole and filling it with about 3" of crushed gravel. We then built the stand by stacking the concrete blocks and topping them off with the white pine boards and testing for level. Next, the 4.5"-thick firebrick hearth is created by stacking the brick tightly side to side (three rows of 16 bricks each). The sides and rear of the oven are stacked next and we find that an internal oven height of 6"-9" works well. Since this oven is semi-portable and all of the bricks are stacked dry (i.e. without mortar), stability is always a concern and we added a couple of pine sideboards. Finally, as shown in the photo, the steel plate on the two pieces of angle iron, caps it off.

Now the oven is ready for firing and baking and some of our team has been busy mixing dough and fixing toppings. There are many good dough recipes available. As for toppings, might we suggest shrimp and pesto or venison sausage and homemade mozzarella? We find that precooking the toppings makes sense since brick-oven pizzas need only a few minutes to cook.

It's now time to build a small fire directly on the firebrick hearth using our favorite hardwoods (we use small pieces of seasoned apple, cherry and oak). The goal is to store heat in the brick and we found that a firing time of two hours was required for this oven design. This is perfect since it is about the time it takes for the dough preparation. One interesting note is that we found that the steel griddle lost some strength and sagged slightly after the first firing cycle, but not enough to be a concern.

We now carefully push the coals and ash to the rear and sides of the hearth, keeping the fire going at all times. Some folks use fancy thermocouples to indicate proper hearth temperature, we use a dusting of corn meal to tell when it's pizza time. If the cornmeal flames instantly, we wait a bit before sliding on a pie. If the cornmeal sits there unchanged, we move the coals back to the center of the hearth for further heating. For extended pizza parties, we reheat the hearth as necessary. A nice feature of the present design is that we can cook on one side while the other side reheats. New users here will need to gain experience managing the oven and there will always be a few pizzas for the dog!

We find that a couple of simple tools makes cooking easier. A damp rag on a stick for clearing ash, a pizza peel for loading and unloading pies, and a stick with a nail at the end for turning pizzas while they are baking on the firebrick hearth. As we say, "Don't overload those thin crusts with too many toppings!"

Well that's it! A simple project at the woodlot that involved the whole family. Depending on needs and desires, our brick ovens evolve and they are more or less robust, but they all cook great pizzas!

Dean Faklis is a MFO and NYS Tree Farmer and Justin Perkins is a brick oven builder. Both are authentic pizza eaters!

Selling the most valuable timber and leaving the rest will significantly reduce the future value of the woodlot.

The quality factor is calculated using a spreadsheet with the total board foot volume of sawtimber from the forest resource survey. Sawtimber volume was converted into dollars by species and log quality using the stumpage price report. The comparison of the timber value of unmanaged versus managed forest shows that management can increase stumpage value by 40%. So quality increase can be expressed as a factor of 1.4.

Silviculture can also be used to shift the species mix from low value species to high value species. I used a factor of 1.1 for species mix improvement which could be achieved by shifting 10% of the volume of low value species to higher value species.

In conclusion, the total potential value increase is: 1.5 multiplied by 1.4 multiplied by 1.1 = 2.3. In other words, over time silviculture could more than double the timber value in a previously unmanaged woodlot. More timber volume, better log quality, and higher value species all leverage one another. Unfortunately, most woodlots have a past history of high-grading. But this means the potential for improvement with appropriate silviculture might be even higher. It seems realistic to conclude that silviculture could increase future timber growth by at least 50% and value by at least 300%—if more landowners used it.

Why is this important? Perhaps some readers have seen "The Economic Importance of New York's Forests"[11], a publication which documents the economic contribution of the timber resource to the state's economy. The forest products industry supports the tax base, provides jobs, and helps preserve our working forest landscape. Unfortunately, the economic viability of the industry is weakened because the value and productivity of the forest resource has been degraded. Some of this degradation is the result of insects and diseases (both native and invasive), ice storms, wind storms, etc. But most degradation is the result of shortsighted harvesting practices which "cut the best and leave the rest." Why aren't we managing the timber resource in local woodlots more sustainably today to help strengthen our economy over the long run?

Even if you have no concern for the future of the timber based econ-

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omy in New York State, think of the detrimental effect that an exploitative timber harvest will have on your own ability to cover the cost of property taxes and other ownership expenses in future years. Property taxes are the same whether your timber is growing at $5 per acre per year or $45 per acre per year. And perhaps your children or even your grandchildren will someday inherit the land. The woodlot can be a family legacy. Therefore, it makes good sense to manage your trees sustainably, with the goal of maintaining a steady stream of future revenues for yourself and improving value and productivity for the next generation.

Sustainable timber management could eventually double or perhaps triple the economic contribution of the forest resource, without diminishing other ecological, environmental and recreational values. Family forest owners have the ability to make this potential a reality if they invest in silviculture. However, key supporting players (loggers, mills, consulting foresters) must also be willing to encourage long term management as an alternative to high-grading in order to make substantial progress. The good news is that the mission of the New York Forest Owners Association is to promote sustainable forestry practices and improved stewardship on privately owned woodlands in New York State. Knowledgeable woodland owners are capable of changing this situation for the better by unlocking the economic potential of their woodlots with silviculture.

The author would like to acknowledge the valuable contributions to this article from reviewers Jim Coufal, Sloane Crawford, René Germain, and Ralph Nyland.

(Endnotes)

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Carl Wiedemann is a member of the Capital District chapter of NYFOA.

NYFOA Obituary

Editors Note: NYFOA Board Member, Robert Morrison recently passed away. The note below, along with his obituary, was sent to NYFOA from his daughter.

It is with great sadness that I share the news of my father, Bob Morrison passing away yesterday at the St. Peter's Hospice Inn. My father so enjoyed knowing each of you and sharing a mutual love of the Adirondacks.

Thank you, thank you for all the prayers and wishes for my dad. It meant so much to him and helped to ease his pain.

Sincerely,
Patricia (Patty) Morrison

Robert C. "Bob" Morrison

Bob Morrison, 70, of Voorheesville and Minerva, died Saturday, October 22, 2011 at St. Peter's Hospice Inn after a brief illness. Originally from the Town of Minerva, Bob graduated from Cardinal McCloskey High School, Fordham College, University of Albany with his masters, and served in the Army Reserves. After 30+ years in NYS service (Office of Mental Health), Bob devoted himself to enjoying his many avocations. In addition to serving on Director Boards for OMCE (Org. of Mgmt. Confidential Employees), PROTECT the Adirondacks and the New York Forest Owners Assoc., Bob pursued his love of music with the Mendelssohn Club of Albany and St. Matthew's Choir. But his heart was in the Adirondacks where his formative years were spent. As part of the legendary Cronin/Butler clan in Minerva, Essex County, Bob was deeply rooted in the lore and allure of the Adirondack Mountains. His favorite activity: a walk in the woods of his beloved Haven of Rest Forest. Bob is survived by three children: Patricia Morrison, Christine Maney and Rob Morrison; his grandchildren: Tom and Grace Maney; several nieces and nephews and numerous cousins.

Memorial contributions may be made to PROTECT the Adirondacks (PO Box 4124, Schenectady, NY 12304).

Are you interested in a particular topic and would like to see an article about it.

Please send your suggestions to:
Mary Beth Malmsheimer
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Please share this magazine with a neighbor and urge them to join NYFOA. By gaining more members, NYFOA's voice will become stronger!

Volunteers Needed

NYFOA is in need of individuals to volunteer for ***two new positions***.

1. The first position would require an individual(s) to play a leadership role on the Communications and Outreach Committee. This person would help craft and implement a comprehensive marketing strategy for NYFOA. It is expected that this strategy would be incorporated into the *Forest Owner*, the NYFOA web site, as well as any advertisements and articles in the general press and perhaps other venues.

2. The second position is for an individual comfortable with technology that could research options for such things as e-mail management software, web site design (possibly implementation), social networking options and similar topics.

Interested parties are encouraged to **contact Jim Minor**, President of NYFOA for exploratory discussions at 585-247-7069 or jminor@nyfoa.org

Member Profile: *Larry Phillips*

BETI SPANGEL

As a graduate student at the University of Florida in 1981, Larry Phillips was working for a forest fertilizer co-op, doing research on moisture movement through soils to better understand nutrient uptake. Years later, he is applying that knowledge and much more towards the betterment of his own 30 acre tract in Schroon Lake.

"There was a nice little house on 30 acres of land that had a lawn around the house, and the rest was just high-graded forest," Phillips says of his property that he purchased in 2003 within the Adirondack Park. "It had been logged at least twice that I could see."

His goal is to develop the existing stand as a working woodlot. "I am basically doing a long-term timber stand improvement, where I'm improving the stand composition and form through taking out the trees that are less desirable, that don't have a future, such as beech and, to a lesser degree, red maple," he says. "I would say the poorest formed trees will be gone in about another five years, being harvested for firewood."

Implementing forest best management practices, Phillips is looking to encourage hard maple, yellow birch, and black cherry growth. He is also cultivating a sugar bush for future maple syrup production.

When they first purchased the property, Phillips and his wife, Beti Spangel, a legal secretary and free-lance writer, proceeded to clear three acres for her two horses, utilizing a chainsaw each and a 1950 Ford 8N tractor. "Forest does not become pasture without a fight," Spangel says. Today, in addition to ongoing pasture improvement, they cultivate several small gardens on the property. Primarily potato farmland in the beginning of the 20th century, their land has done well at producing raspberries, blue and red potatoes, onions, tomatoes, and basil. In addition to the horses, they also have a small flock of free-range chickens and two cats.

Raspberries were a bumper crop this year at the 30 Acre Wood in Schroon Lake.

Larry Phillips gets the hang of the sucessor to his 1950 Ford 8N tractor, a John Deere 790, which he will also use for skidding logs off his woodlot.

The Phillips' heat their home solely with firewood from their property, going through approximately 5 cords a year. They have also developed their own water pre-heating system utilizing a solar heating component on the roof of the house in the late spring, summer and early fall, and a heat exchanger system on the back of the woodstove for late fall, winter and early spring. Pre-heating their frigid well water before it goes into their electric water heater has made a significant difference in their electric bills.

Phillips graduated from Southern Illinois University with a degree in forest management, and University of Florida with a masters degree in soil science. While living in various southern states, he worked for International Paper Co. first as a research forester, then as a corporate environmental au-

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Larry Phillips built this bridge to access additional areas of his property with the tractor without disturbing natural water flows on the land.

ditor and finally as an environmental engineer for 12 years in their Ticonderoga mill. In 2005, he took a position as staff forester with the Adirondack Park Agency (APA), evaluating soils for their appropriateness for septic systems, excavation work and site suitability. The call of manufacturing was too much, though, and in 2010 he took a position as environmental control manager with Finch Paper, Co. in Glens Falls.

"Forests are one of our competitive advantages, yet it seems that we don't take advantage of them as much as we could, as far as serving as raw materials for New York State," Phillips says of the current state of forestry. "What's good about it is that it's evolving. Best management practices are being used more often from what I've seen, and training is becoming more common, both in safety and silvaculture."

Phillips sees forestry within the Adirondack Park, however, as "a little unbalanced. Outside forces tend to want to see the park in preservation instead of conservation. I see preservation as a means to preserve special areas, but I think a lot of areas that are not unique or serving some special ecological purpose are being locked away as preserve. Land that is neither could be working forest."

Phillips himself is a certified logger, having taken Game of Logging 1, 2 and 3 under New York Logger Training, Inc. "Safety is so important," he says, "and I wish that everyone would take Game of Logging just to really learn how to fell trees property and learn how to be in control." He is also a member of the Society of American Foresters and is preparing for tree farm certification.

In addition to his work with Finch Paper, Co., Phillips has also started his own business, *Adirondack Land Use! Planning,* which assists landowners with site plans, evaluation of soils for septic systems, preparation of subdivision applications, wetland boundaries and mapping, and tree farm and forest management plans. "The reason I started the business is that when I working with the APA, I learned about planning development around sensitive resources, taking natural resources into account when doing development, and it was a lot of fun. It's a little more relaxed than manufacturing, so I think I'd like to get back into something a little more laid back and do that as a business."

Overall, Phillips has made a diverse career out of the forestry industry, and looks forward to where it will take him next.

Beti Spangel is a freelance writer disguised as a legal secretary, as well as Larry Phillips' wife and partner in crime. Follow their adventures in homesteading at www.weefarmgirl.blogspot.com. You can also email them at adklanduseplan@gmail.com

"The Girls," free-ranging Plymouth Barred Rocks, strike a pose. Actually, they just didn't want to step in the first snow of the year.

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

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