

The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

For people caring about New York's trees and forests

March/April 2012



Member Profile: Robert Manning

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**The New York
Forest Owner**

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COVER: Manning enjoys taking friends hiking. Pictured on their property on Oven Mountain is (seated) Robert Manning, Rick Morse, Ann Morse, Donna Welch, and Bob Nettle. Standing is Tomoko Manning and Ed Welch, and Manning's dog Brio in front. For member profile turn to page 21. Photo courtesy of Manning.

From The President

In line with my wanting to continue educating myself on woodlot related topics I recently attended one day of the two-day New York Society of American Foresters (www.safnet.org/ny) annual meeting held in Syracuse. I was impressed with the degree of professionalism represented at the meeting, although I probably shouldn't have been since it is a professional organization. I was also impressed with the strong alignment of



their objectives with those of NYFOA, including a deep concern over the decline of the quality of New York forests. This concern is documented by a paper currently on our

own web site, "Selective Logging - The Hidden Disaster of New York's Forest Economy" (<http://www.nyfoa.org/docs/SelectiveLoggingDisaster.pdf>) written by (the late) Mike Greason, Carl Wiedemann, and Jim Coufal, members of both NYFOA and SAF. NYSAF is preparing a white paper on this issue.

Another presentation at the meeting caught my eye and that was a study entitled "The Impact of Taxes in the Northern Forest" by David Newman, Jonathon Hass, and Robert Malmshemer of SUNY-ESF. One thing that jumped out was how disadvantaged New York woodlot owners were when it came to their property taxes when compared to nearby states. This is one of the topics NYFOA's Policy and Legislative Affairs Committee is looking into under the capable leadership of its Director and

outgoing NYFOA board member, Frank Winkler.

Speaking of that NYFOA committee, one of the highlights of their year is the Forestry Awareness Day on March 13th in Albany. This is an opportunity for NYFOA to link up with other forestry groups under the umbrella organization, The Council of Forest Resource Organizations (CFRO), to highlight areas of concern of our members to our state legislators. As of this writing key issues are Forest Taxation, Invasive Species, and Biomass Energy.

It seems that late winter and early spring are a great time for woodlot-related workshops. Check your local NYFOA chapter's newsletter to see what they've got planned. Also, one of our great partners in woodlot skill education are the good people in the network of Cornell Cooperative Extension offices. Their support as we work toward common goals is invaluable. They offer topics on woodlot issues via a variety of venues. On March 3rd the Allegany County CCE office is holding their 20th annual Rural Landowner Workshop which I've attended in the past and found quite worthwhile. Although this notice may not reach you in time for you to attend that particular one, you might want to contact your own local CCE office to see if they have anything planned along these lines for you and your neighbors to participate. If not, you might be able to join with your chapter leadership to work with them to get something started in your region. 🌲

—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*, woodwalks, chapter meetings, and statewide meetings.

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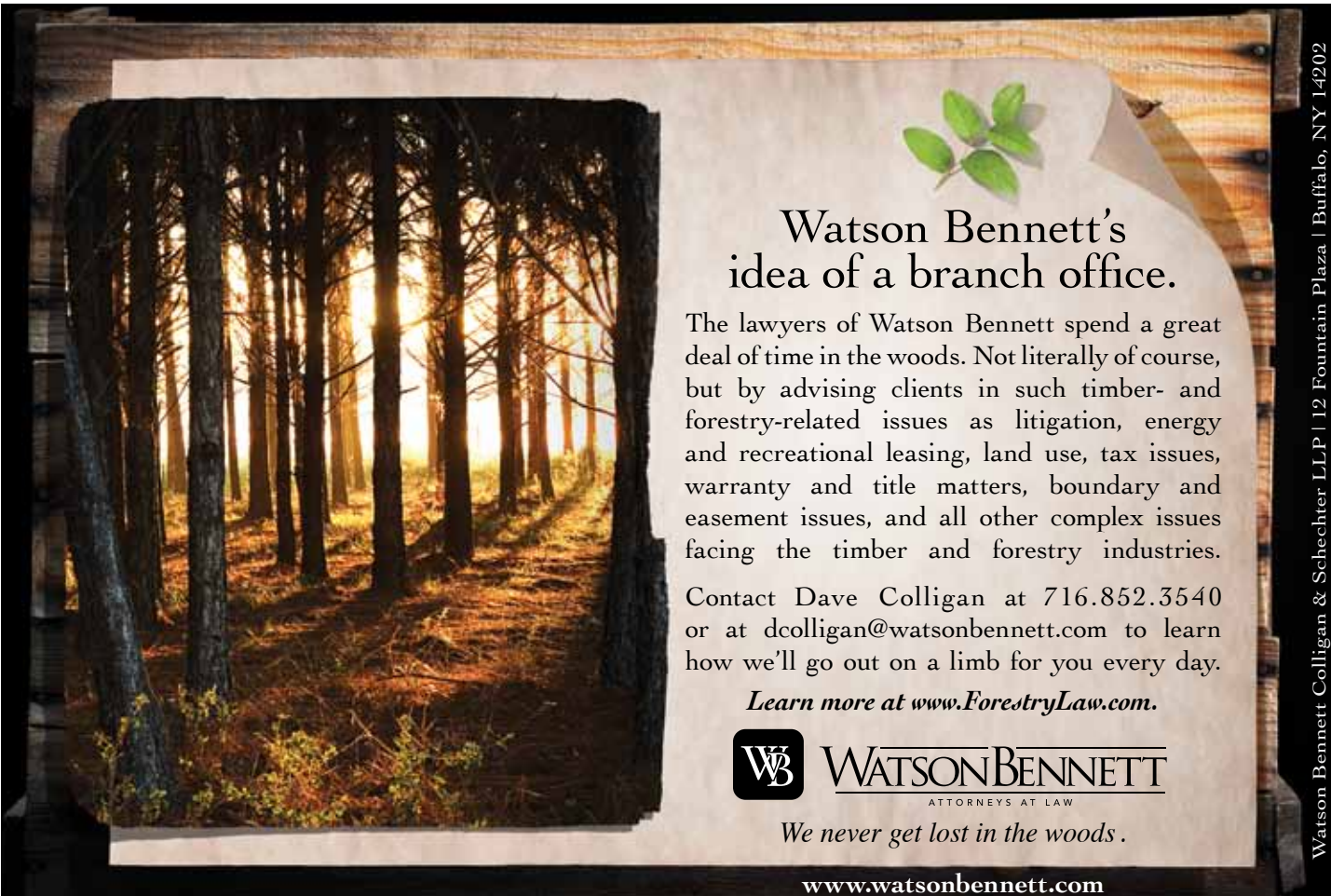
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Don't be Caught With Your Pants Down!

DEAN FAKLIS


Each year, 30,000 Americans lose enough red blood cells while using a chainsaw to visit the Emergency Room and get a whole bunch of stitches. Each and every one of them were not planning on it when they picked up the saw.

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission keeps track of all the gory details in a database called NEISS. The product code for chainsaws is 1411 and the data gives a graphic narrative of each bloody "event." Interesting reading, I must say!

In rough terms, 35% of chainsaw-related injuries are to the hands and 35% to the legs. Mostly, left hand and left leg. Both feet share about equally at about 5% each, the head accounts for 10% and the upper body rounds it out at about 10%. About 25 of us, mostly husbands, fathers and grandfathers, are killed using a chainsaw annually, on average. Odds of being killed while using a chainsaw are remarkably the same as being killed by lightning. I can deal with that. Odds of permanent disability and loss of livelihood, however, are much, much worse. So why is it that when I ask woodcutters if they wear protective chaps, most tell me "no?"

I like to think that I am fun at dinner parties and I thought I would put that to the test. The other night over dessert, I asked an experienced gang about their thoughts on why many chainsaw users don't wear chainsaw chaps. Was it due to the cost of chaps? No. How about wearability, discomfort, reduced productivity? Small percentage feel these are the reasons. Denial of risk? Yep. The overwhelming reason is that: "It Won't Happen To Me."

Furthermore, many of the respondents even suggested a sense of pride; like the blue-jean-wearing chopper might somehow believe he's too good to be injured. Experience certainly plays a role in risk analysis, but when does confidence become overconfidence? I now know that I'm fun at parties!

There is risk in all human activities and we all make our own decisions. But, one cannot deny that 30,000 people like you and me suffer serious slices from a chainsaw every year. I'll continue to use a chainsaw and wear chaps, even if they're hot in the summer. And I'll continue to remind husbands, fathers, and grandfathers to wear personal protective equipment. You might be good and confident in your abilities, but remember, there is a family that depends on you. 

Dean Faklis is a NYFOA member, MFO and NYS Tree Farmer.



Notice the chaps on the individual using the chainsaw.

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Ask A Professional

PETER SMALLIDGE



Peter Smallidge

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

Tools To Manage Interfering Plants

Question:

I have learned how to identify some of the plants in my woodlot and I realize that many don't support my objectives and may crowd out desired plants. How can I learn how to manage them to support my objectives?

Answer:

Management of interfering plants has become an increasingly common question. The specifics vary, in terms of the types of plants and the specific owner objectives, but the pattern is consistent... how can owners efficiently and safely limit the abundance of undesirable plants?

Let me clarify some terms. A common focus of attention is to manage against "invasive" species. In NYS law, an "invasive" species is non-native and has fewer benefits than native species with regards to associated economic, ecological, or human well-being problems (www.nyis.info). The interpretation of this definition often emphasizes the non-native quality, and doesn't acknowledge native species that can become problematic. I prefer the more general label "interfering" to focus on the qualities of a plant that interferes with an objective of

an owner. Thus, a species that is interfering in one context may not be interfering in another context. Each owner needs to consider each context where a plant occurs, at the local and landscape scale, and conscious of a short and long time frame. A species that fulfills the definition of "invasive" would be interfering, but so would some native species.

I have heard some arguments that

interfering plants really aren't a problem because they have some redeeming qualities. Although these plants nominally have some favorable traits, those traits are typically not as favorable as found in the desired plants. Also, the interfering plants can, almost by definition, overwhelm a woodlot and exclude all or most other species. The development of a monoculture brings additional potential problems.

There is a strong history of work and an abundance of educational materials that can assist the owner and manager in their efforts to manage interfering plants. This column has previously addressed aspects of this question, but some new resources are available that will help forest owners. I recently learned of an outstanding website developed by Dave Jackson of Penn State Cooperative Extension (<http://extension.psu.edu/fvm>), and will use that web site and the ForestConnect resources (www.ForestConnect.info) for this response. Dave Jackson also gave a webinar on this subject in February 2012, accessible through either of the ForestConnect web links provided here.



Non-native and native species can interfere with objectives that woodlot owners have for timber production, recreation, wildlife habitat and maple syrup production. Success with the management of interfering plants requires an integrated approach. There are few occasions when a "one and done" effort is sufficient.

First, the operational strategy to approach the problem of interfering plants should be one of Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM). IVM has several basic tenets. 1. Scout the area and identify the relative abundance of desirable and interfering plants. You need to know the extent of the problem. 2. Realistically consider the acceptable abundance of the interfering plants relative to your ownership objectives. Full control is seldom possible and often not desirable. 3. Select the variety of management tools that satisfies the owner's ecological and economic criteria. Circumstances will dictate which tools will be effective, and the sequence that tools are applied can increase or decrease their effectiveness. 4. Evaluate the effectiveness of the treatments, reassess your objectives relative to current levels of the interfering plant, and determine if additional or new treatments are necessary.

The types of treatments are often distinguished by the mode and the method of treatment. Mode refers to whether the treatment is focused on individual plants or focused on the area where the plants grow. "Selective" treatments are focused on individual plants while "broadcast" treatments are



The beech sprouts in this picture were treated with a foliar application of a herbicide at a specific concentration of the active ingredient. That same herbicide, when used for a cut-surface or stem injection treatment would be mixed at a different concentration. If an owner chooses to use a herbicide, deliberate attention must be given to aligning the correct product with the target species and application method.

and include: mechanical, chemical or biological.

Discussions of vegetation management often converge on the relative merits of chemical versus mechanical controls. Some owners have a strong preference to avoid the use of chemical treatments. For some vegetation management situations, mechanical or cultural treatments will be effective and efficient. In other situations, the owners might consider an initial mechanical treatment that would significantly reduce the amount of chemical needed to accomplish the management goal. A number of webinars on mechanical forest vegetation control are available at the ForestConnect webinar site, together with discussions at <http://CornellForestConnect.ning.com>

Some specific attention to chemical control is warranted for several reasons: chemical methods are used by many owners, in some cases chemical control is the most effective control technique, misuse of chemicals can compromise human and environmental safety, and because the use of chemicals is regu-

lated by federal and state law. The Penn State website has an abundance of information that will assist owners and managers in these regards. Let me offer a few key points:

1. When owners use an herbicide (herbicides are a category of pesticides that control plants), the herbicide has a label and the label is effectively a contract between the user and the state regulatory authority. It is imperative for the person applying the herbicide to read, understand, and follow the label. The label is the law. The overwhelming majority of information on the PSU website is applicable to NY, but NY has some distinct laws regulating which herbicides can be used. To check on specific NY herbicides, visit this site <http://pims.psur.cornell.edu/> or the Cornell pesticide page at <http://pmep.cce.cornell.edu/>
2. Start by reading the PSU Cooperative Extension bulletin titled *Herbicides and Forest Vegetation Management*. This is available for free on the PSU website. I have a link to the



Every pesticide, which includes all herbicides, have a label that describes the legal applications of the product. Web sites allow users to review labels before purchase to ensure the herbicide is appropriate. Users are expected to read, understand and follow the label. The label is the law.

continued on page 17

New York State Tree Farm News

ERIN O'NEILL



Let me help you start this growing season out right. The American Tree Farm System (ATFS) or just commonly called Tree Farm is so much more than just an inspection. Tree Farm offers certification, education, guidance, and advocacy. Let me give you some easy ways to find us!

The main website is found at www.treefarmssystem.org where you can find news and updates on things important to you like taxes, farm bill conservation programs, market information, invasive species links and renewable energy & climate resources. You can sign up for the Family Forest Action Network to be constantly updated about current issues and have an opportunity to protect and help fight for policy changes ensuring we all have resources to keep our forests healthy and productive. You can get questions about certification answered or see what's making news; such as the newly released USDA study finding wood to be a "green" building material. You can also view webinars and

utilize important resources for your woodlands.

You may have also seen the *Tree Farmer* magazine. In recent issues many of these topics were highlighted including certification, climate change and silviculture; and there's always something useful no matter what your goals are. There are practical how-to's and hands-on information to help you become a better steward while saving time and money. You can check out some of the latest issues on line through a tab in the main website.

The ATFS and American Forest Foundation are also on Facebook! That's right, log onto www.treefarmssystem.org and find the "Tell us your story" feature. ATFS is looking for personal stories to highlight the importance of family forests.

According to the ATFS web site, NY State has 11.2 million acres of forestland owned by 614,000 family forest owners. These forests are home to plants and animals and provide recreation for over 1.4 million

registered hunters and a known 3.8 million wildlife enthusiasts. The forest industry remains one of the top ten manufacturing sectors in NYS providing 53,800 plus jobs (almost 5% of the manufacturing workforce). Nationally, forest owners provide building materials, reduce energy use and carbon emissions, supply more than 25% of drinking water and protect nearly two thirds of at risk species!

You are my heros!!

There are currently about 1,800 certified tree farms in NY State. If this all sounds like something you would like to be a part of, remember, 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 Immediate Past Chair of the NYS Tree Farm Committee.

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

Please send your suggestions to:
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Kid's Corner

REBECCA HARGRAVE



Ruth Esther Delavan
“Grammie D” of Cincinnatus,
NY, submitted this photo of
six of her nine grandchildren
enjoying a walk in the woods
on their Maple Farm.

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!

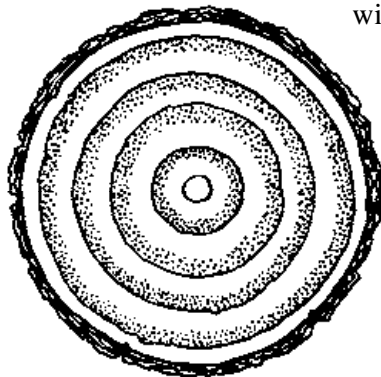
Age That Tree!

Materials

- Tree cookie (round of wood cut from the end of a log), stump, or piece of firewood.
- Sandpaper
- Water
- Magnifying glass
- Red Marker
- Pins
- A piece of paper

It is easy to find out how old a tree was when it was cut. Every year a tree creates a new layer of wood underneath the bark. In the spring, when the tree is growing quickly, the wood cells are large (early wood). As the growing season ends, the wood cells are smaller (late wood). This creates a boundary that allows us to see each year's growth as a ring. Then, we can count these rings to determine the age of the tree.

First, find a piece of firewood, stump, or branch. Ideally, you should be able to see the center of



the log, called the pith. If you can, with the help of an adult, cut a round off the end of the firewood—this is commonly called a cookie.

To prepare your wood cookie for counting, smooth down the rough surfaces with sandpaper. Find the center (pith) of the cookie and start counting. Work your way out to the edge of the bark. You may find it easier to mark every 10 years

with a marker if your cookie has a lot of rings.

How old is your tree? If it was cut this year, when did your tree start to grow? Using a pin, mark the year you were born, when your brothers and sisters were born, or even your parents. Think

about all your tree lived through. Make a time line of important events by writing the event on a little piece of paper and pinning it to the wood.

Find wood cookies or firewood from different species of trees, some will be easier to read than others. Find one that grew really fast, with wide rings, and one that grew very slow, with narrow rings.

Wood cookie projects are great science and fair entries, too! 🌲

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

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Landowner Liability and Insurance

DAVID J. COLLIGAN, ESQ.

Perhaps the question asked most often by landowners upon learning that I am an attorney is what happens if someone is hurt on their premises. If someone is hurt because you intentionally attempted to hurt them, you are liable. However, in most cases, injuries that occur on premises are allegedly caused by the “negligence” of the owner. The four legs of the negligence stool, as we learned in law school, are: 1) duty; 2) breach of duty; 3) proximate cause; and 4) injury. If any of those four legs are missing, there is no negligence. Thanks to a New York State law, negligence by landowners has been substantially minimized, but not eliminated.

Under General Obligations Law § 9-103, an owner, lessee, or occupant of premises, whether or not posted, owes no *duty* to keep the premises safe for entry or use by others for hunting, fishing, organized gleaning (whatever that is), canoeing, boating, trapping, hiking, crosscountry skiing, tobogganing, sledging, speleological (cave exploration) activities, horseback riding, bicycle riding, hang gliding, motorized vehicle operation for recreational purposes, snowmobile operation, cutting or gathering wood for noncommercial purposes, or training of dogs. Note that this statutory exemption from the landowner’s duty is what prevents a court from finding the

landowner negligent if any of the listed activities result in injuries.

Noticeably absent from this list are swimming and diving. These are very dangerous activities often leading to injury and death that occur on farm ponds, adjacent waterways, or even swimming pools. Therefore, despite a clear public policy to encourage landowners to open their properties to use for most recreational purposes, the law inadvertently exposes landowners to the same recreational users injuring themselves if they encounter a convenient place to take a dip or dive off a rock. My advice to everyone with water on their property, who does not wish to police the area, is that signs should be erected that basically warn people that there is no swimming or boating and the landowner assumes no risk if this policy is violated. I believe simple signs such as “No Swimming” or “No Diving” accomplishes this purpose.

The law goes on to say there is no duty to give a warning of any “hazardous conditions or use of or structure or activity on such premises.” Notwithstanding the law’s renewal of a duty to warn, I strongly recommend that landowners should *warn* if there is a known danger which is under the owner’s control, such as a structurally defective barn, a target shooting area, an old well, or a foundation, if for no other reason than to avoid an unnecessary injury to someone.

The law does hold landowners liable for gross negligence or reckless behavior and failure to warn of very dangerous situations that may constitute gross negligence. Do not think that the law protects you from willful or malicious acts constituting a failure to guard or warn against a condition, use, structure, or activity protected from liability. Examples of willful or malicious acts that expose you to liability would be spring guns, booby traps, intentionally dug and hidden pits and other deliberate but passive “protective” devices which will create liability notwithstanding the law’s protection.

A very common misconception is that by giving permission to someone to use your property can create liability where none is due. This is simply not the case. However, if a fee is received for use of the property then you do owe a person a duty to keep the premises safe. This is important to remember as hunting leases become more common.

One of the ways a landowner can protect themselves is to acquire an insurance policy protecting the landowner against injuries or accidents occurring on the property. Everyone who has a homeowner’s policy should not assume that their homeowner’s policy protects their rural property as well as their home, even if the home is located on the rural property. Your insurance agent should be asked specifically what protections you have against people using your property for the stated purposes of the act as well as the uses around water that may occur. If your agent tells you that you are protected, my advice is to write

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that information down in a note with the date the agent told you and keep it in case you later get denied when you make a claim to your insurance company.

The much harder issue is how to insure for people collecting firewood for profit, doing timber sales, and/or hunters paying for the right to lease the property for hunting. In the case of firewood collectors and timber cutters, you must insist on both a worker's compensation policy and a general liability policy covering you, the landowner, from any potential liability. In the case of hunting leases, I advise you to get a hunting lease insurance policy which is available through either the National Woodlands Owners' Association or an independent insurance agent selling hunting leases. I know of two such agencies, only one of which requires membership in the National Woodlands Owners' Association.

People often wonder why I recommend insurance policies, even though there may not be any liability for people using the land without a fee. With respect to both people using the land recreationally without a fee and hunters (who rarely sue the landowner) the landowner is actually buying a legal defense team as part of the insurance policy. The expense of hiring lawyers to protect your rights before any claim is liquidated to a final damage amount is sometimes more costly than the actual damage itself. By purchasing an insurance policy, you are buying a law firm to represent your interests for free throughout the course of a lawsuit involving a claim against you as landowner. This alone provides great value for the amount of money you spent on an insurance policy, while covering the cost of a claim becomes a bonus.

While General Obligations Law § 9-103 is enlightened, it does not cover every situation a landowner has and you should consult with your insurance agent and/or your lawyer if you have any questions. ▲

David Colligan is an attorney in the law offices of Watson Bennett Colligan & Schechter LLP.

Brush Clearing Saw vs. Chainsaw

JIM ENGEL

People might claim I was born with a chainsaw in my hands. I have used a chainsaw all of my adult life. I bought my first saw in my early 20's when I cut firewood on shares to make some extra money. A couple of years later at age 24 I bought 38 acres of forest land; a chainsaw was crucial for nearly everything I did on the property from building a log lean-to, to clearing a building site, and managing the woodlot.

A chainsaw is the tool of choice for anyone working in the woods. A good quality chainsaw is a versatile piece of equipment that can pretty much do all the jobs you need to do in the woods: fell trees, limb, buck logs to length, cut up firewood. As with any task having the right piece of equipment can mean the difference between doing a job easily, safely and efficiently compared to taking longer, working harder and maybe less safely.

In recent years I became involved in controlling several species of invasive brush for hire. I used the cut-stump treatment method to control the invasive brush, which included European buckthorn, autumn olive, tartarian honeysuckle and oriental bittersweet plus a few others. The cut-stump treatment requires cutting the stem off at ground level and then treating the cut surface with a herbicide to prevent resprouting of the root system. As I was so familiar with it and I

couldn't think of any other more efficient tool to use, I naturally picked up the chainsaw. For the most part the chain saw worked well for this purpose but I often had to cut my way through tangles of dense brush and force my way through numerous branches to reach the base of a broad multi-stemmed honeysuckle or autumn olive. I donated a lot of blood to rose thorns and buckthorn spines, to get close enough to the trunk to cut it off. During the summer months I would be dripping wet from the exertion of fighting the brush. More times than I want to think about I would get slapped, poked and whipped from a slender branch that was too soft and flexible to be cut by the chain but would instead be grabbed and cracked like a whip against some exposed body part. A chainsaw was just not designed to cut these slender multiple stemmed plants but there was nothing better to use other than hand tools which was just too slow and laborious.

My liberation from flogging came when I had the opportunity to use a brush clearing saw. That first time I operated a clearing saw I recognized immediately that it was designed to do all of the tasks that a chainsaw could not and some tasks that a chainsaw does well but the clearing saw does so much faster. Whereas a chainsaw is very good at felling larger diameter stems and cutting a large volume of wood in a short amount of time,

continued on page 19

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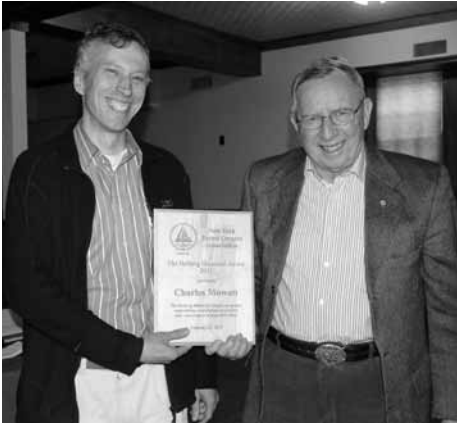
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NYFOA AWARDS

Charlie Mowatt Honored with Heiberg Award



Charlie Mowatt received the 2012 Heiberg Memorial Award from Mike Seager.

The Heiberg Memorial Award, memorializing Svend O. Heiberg, a world-renowned professor at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, recognizes outstanding contributions to forestry and conservation in New York. Heiberg was one of the original founders of the New York Forest Owners Association in 1962. The award was presented to Charlie Mowatt at the Association's annual membership meeting held Saturday, February 25 during the New York Farm Show on the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse.

Charlie started his career as a DEC forester in 1961, working in Region 9 in the western part of the state. Over the course of his 32 year career he served as a forester and a supervisor in both Regions 8 and 9. He and his staff of up to nine foresters and technicians managed thousands of acres of state forest for multiple goals. They used commercial timber harvests to create a variety of wildlife habitat and to maintain a diverse forest composition while generating revenue for the state at the same time. Charlie and his crews also managed oil and gas extraction in state forests back

in the 1970's when the first oil shocks rocked the country, allowing the underground resources to be tapped while protecting the forests and using the activity to further other goals such as improving public access to state land.

Charlie has also been active in NYFOA for many years. When I took an interest in managing my woodlot, Charlie was the first person to visit in the guise of a Master Forest Owner. I found our discussion at that time, and the many discussions we have had since, both educational and inspirational. And I am not alone in feeling that way; many people speak of Charlie as a mentor who helped them recognize and realize the benefits of active forest management. Charlie served NYFOA at both the state and chapter levels. In addition to holding many offices, he was long a fixture at the NYFOA booth at the annual Rural Landowner Workshop in Yorkshire, the largest workshop of its kind in the state.

In recognition of Charlie's many contributions to NYFOA, he received the Outstanding Service Award in 1998, and in 2006 he and his wife Marian receive the Chapter Service Award from the Allegany Foothills Chapter.

As I was talking to Charlie to collect information for this article, he kept diverting the conversation. While I wanted to ask him about the past and what he had accomplished, he kept turning the conversation to the present and the future. He does not want to rest on the laurels of his long career. He still has an infectious enthusiasm for forestry and a great deal of passion for the future of New York's forests. That focus on the future exemplifies why Charlie was chosen to receive the 2012 Heiberg Award.

—Presented by Mike Seager

Heiberg Award Recipients

1966	Hardy L. Shirley
1967	David B. Cook
1968	Floyd Carlson
1969	Mike Demeree
1970	No Award
1971	Fred Winch, Jr.
1972	John Stock
1973	Robert M. Ford
1974	C. Eugene Farnsworth
1975	Alex Dickson
1976	Edward W. Littlefield
1977	Maurine Postley
1978	Ralph Nyland
1979	Fred C. Simmons
1980	Dr. William Harlow
1981	Curtis H. Bauer
1982	Neil B. Gutches
1983	David W. Taber
1984	John W. Kelley
1985	Robert G. Potter
1986	Karen B. Richards
1987	Henry G. Williams
1988	Robert M. Sand
1989	Willard G. Ives
1990	Ross S. Whaley
1991	Robert S. Stegemann
1992	Bonnie & Don Colton
1993	Michael C. Greason
1994	Douglas C. Allen
1995	John C. Marchant
1996	Harriet & John Hamilton
1997	Vernon C. Hudson
1998	Peter S. Levatich
1999	James E. Coufal
2000	James P. Lassoie
2001	John T. Hastings
2002	Albert W. Brown
2003	David J. Colligan
2004	Jack McShane
2005	Peter Smallidge
2006	Cotton-Hanlon
2007	Jim Beil
2008	Gary Goff
2009	John Sullivan
2010	Carl Wiedemann
2011	Mike Birmingham
2012	Charlie Mowatt

Outstanding Service Award Presented to Hans and Joan Kappel



Phil Walton presents Hans and Joan Kappel with the Outstanding Service Award for 2012.

The New York Forest Owners Association presented its Outstanding Service Award to Capital District Chapter members Hans and Joan Kappel. The award recognizes outstanding service to the Association membership.

Joan and Hans reside in Altamont, New York and in numerous ways through the years Joan and Hans have worked to improve the effectiveness of NYFOA's outreach and education.

Joan's service on the board of directors is remembered in part by her efforts on the Forest Owner editorial committee, including years as a very conscientious proof reader. In addition to years of service on CDC's steering committee, she was CDC's membership secretary for many years, keeping excellent records and pioneering the use of email notifications in our Chapter. Keeping us up to date on important happenings in and outside the immediate area was an important benefit and served to further interest in chapter events.

Hans created CDC's large three panel display some years ago and has continued to keep it current. More importantly, he has seen

to its safe transport and use to any and all appropriate events, irrespective of the when and where around CDC's eight counties. The display was always present at county fairs throughout the area and the Woodworker's Showcase in Saratoga each year. In addition to setting up and managing the display, he kept a well stocked reserve of publications on hand for distribution. When displays from all chapters were shown at the annual membership meeting in February at SUNY-ESF, his was frequently voted as the best display.

Joan and Hans regularly participated in "Forest Awareness Day" to visit with Legislators and staff at the State Capitol on forestry issues, and held wood walks on their property. They also demonstrated their dedication to NYFOA and its ideals by arranging each year for our annual picnic at Thacher State park, which overlooks Albany County. In addition to reserving and making program arrangements for a large private picnic area, Hans barbequed chicken on site each year with his own elaborate setup.

Without fanfare, Joan and Hans for years have demonstrated

a quiet but outstanding model in volunteerism for all of us to emulate.

We salute Joan and Hans, and thank NYFOA for awarding them this year's Outstanding Service Award. 🏆

—Presented by Ron Pedersen

Outstanding Service Award Recipients

1978	Emiel Palmer
1979	Ken Eberly
1980	Helen Varian
1981	J. Lewis Dumond
1982	Lloyd Strombeck
1983	Evelyn Stock
1984	Dorothy Wertheimer
1985	David H. Hanaburgh
1986	A. W. Roberts, Jr.
1987	Howard O. Ward
1988	Mary & Stuart McCarty
1989	Alan R. Knight
1990	Earl Pfarner
1991	Helen & John Marchant
1992	Richard J. Fox
1993	Wesley E. Suhr
1994	Alfred B. Signor
1995	Betty & Don Wagner
1996	Betty Densmore
1997	Norman Richards
1998	Charles P. Mowatt
1999	Eileen and Dale Schaefer
2000	Erwin and Polly Fullerton
2001	Billy Morris
2002	Donald G. Brown
2003	Henry S. Kernan
2004	Hugh & Janet Canham
2005	Jerry Michael
2006	John Druke
2007	Ron Pedersen
2009	Alan White
2010	Dick Patton
2011	Jamie Christensen
2012	Joan and Hans Kappel

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

THE CASE FOR BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF NON-NATIVE FOREST PESTS

BY MARK WHITMORE

I've given plenty of lectures recently on some of the biggest pest problems ever to face New York's forests and almost every time I mention biological control someone in the room reminds me of one or more of the big mistakes made in the past. I'm glad to get questions along these lines because it shows folks are not asleep during my lecture and that they paid attention in biology class. One of the best examples of biological control gone awry is the Cane Toad introduced in 1935 from Hawaii into Australia to control a beetle native to Australia that was damaging sugar cane. If you don't know the story I recommend that you look it up, it reads like some kind of sci-fi movie plot. The take away message here is that the Cane Toad is a gener-

alist predator that eats everything and has been an unmitigated ecological disaster. Since that time the science of biological control has recognized past mistakes and developed steps to minimize potential problems. Host specificity trials are one of the cornerstones of modern biological control and now a generalist predator like the Cane Toad would never be intentionally introduced to control a pest. Unfortunately there are an increasing number of introductions of non-native generalist predators still occurring today, and the pet trade is a primary culprit. One of the best examples of this is the Burmese Python in Florida, but I'm getting off topic.

Biological control is a natural part of every ecosystem. It provides a valuable service by removing geneti-

cally inferior individuals from the gene pool. Lions hunting a herd of antelope will invariably dine on the individuals that can't run as fast as the rest, and those individuals that get eaten can't breed. Along opposite lines, diameter-limit harvest of timber removes the best trees (or genes) from the forest, and leaves the inferior trees to seed in the cut area. Again, I digress.

Native insects that feed on trees are kept in check by a combination of biological control agents and host tree resistance. Sometimes tree resistance will break down due to drought or perhaps root rot, and the native insects will be able to build up their populations sufficiently to attack healthy trees and become epidemic. This happens with bark beetles in the west and forest tent caterpillars in our forests. With non-native invasives like the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) host tree resistance does not appear to be in place and biological control did not exist. These insects quickly became, and continue to be epidemic in the eastern US. They are so well established that there is no use attempting eradication. Instead, current management efforts are focused on trying to identify and integrate resistance into our native ash and hemlock and establish viable biological control agents for these devastating pests.

There are two basic approaches to establishing biological control for invasive non-native forest pests: classical biological control and augmentation of native biological control agents. Augmentation of natives is difficult to achieve and although ongoing with EAB, most of the effort is on classical biological control. The classical approach is a long and involved process that follows six basic steps: foreign exploration for potential organisms, identification of candidate organisms, host specificity testing, rearing selected agents, release, and finally monitoring. Foreign

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Figure 1: *Tetrastichus planipennis* (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) ovipositing through ash bark into an Emerald Ash Borer larva. Photo credit: Dr. Houping Liu, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

exploration requires knowledge of where the pest is native then traveling there and studying the native natural enemies. The natural enemies must then be accurately identified and potential candidates for biological control selected. Host specificity testing is one of the most important steps because it determines if the candidate biological control agent will shift to kill insects other than the intended pest. The objective is to be sure we are not introducing a potentially harmful organism, but also to be sure we are not rejecting a potentially useful biological control agent. These experiments are rigorous and lengthy and only those candidates who demonstrate they feed and reproduce only on the target pest are allowed to be released.

After all this scrutiny it is necessary to devise techniques to raise sufficient numbers of the biological control agent for release. As many of you know it is easy to raise fruit flies, but it is a very different thing to raise these biological control insects. Once you have sufficient numbers it is time to release. There

are two kinds of release: inoculative and inundative. Inoculative releases are the most common and are made with small numbers in the hope they will be able to establish and flourish. Inundative releases are rare because of the difficulty in rearing sufficient numbers but this method is preferred because the chances of establishment are higher. Monitoring the releases is crucial to understanding what actually happens and allows adaptation for future management activities. This whole process is necessarily long and involved, taking many years before even the first releases can be made, but it safeguards against making mistakes as in the past.

Classical biological control projects have been underway for EAB since it was first identified in Michigan and are beginning to show some progress. Four tiny stingless wasps, or parasitoids, have been identified and tested for host specificity. Three of these have been approved for release and have been part of a mass rearing program funded by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) in Brighton, MI. One



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parasitizes EAB eggs laid on the bark surface, and the other two parasitize EAB larvae under the bark (Figure 1). Inoculative releases of these parasitoids have been made at a number of locations throughout the range of EAB, and monitoring has found them to have become established. In New York researchers from the USDA Agriculture Research Service and APHIS made inoculative releases in 2011 of the two larval parasitoids at four locations and are looking to expand the number of sites in 2012 and to include the release of the egg parasitoid. NYS Dept. of Ag. & Markets is also helping with the introduction of parasitoids in 2012. It will take years for the parasitoid populations to increase and effect control but this is an important start.

Classical biological control has been a part of the management

continued on page 16

Non-native Forest Pests (continued)

strategy for HWA by the US Forest Service for over 20 years and seems to be finally paying off. Foreign explorations in Japan, China, and the western US (it seems foreign to eastern bugs) where HWA is native has turned up a small number of predatory beetles that have been tested and approved for release. Remember that HWA grows in the winter and so any predator that is active in winter will not find much else to eat. The effectiveness of some of the first predators released, a couple species of lady bird beetles, was not very impressive. However, a recent report from North Carolina of a tiny beetle called *Laricobius nigrinus* has given us all

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hope. This Pacific Northwest native was released and became established at a site eight years ago. Just this year it was recovered by the thousands and researchers feel it is likely responsible for the partial recovery of hemlocks. Although HWA is widely distributed this is good news for future efforts to save our hemlocks. In New York, in cooperation with the NYS DEC and the US Forest Service, two years ago I released *Laricobius nigrinus* at four locations in the Finger Lakes. It has become established in at least one location where we have caught it for two years following release. One question in our minds is if this one predator is sufficient to control HWA over the broad array of habitats where hemlock is found. In areas where HWA is native there are a number of different predators in a single location so our search will continue. However, we are relieved that there is at least a glimmer of hope in what has been a very depressing scenario working with these invasive non-native forest pests. ▲

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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Ask a Professional (continued)

publication on the ForestConnect site as well.

3. The PSU web site has a wealth of information on herbicides. Information is available on: herbicide treatment guidelines, common forestry herbicides, herbicides by application method, herbicide applicators & distributors, and trees controlled.

4. Herbicides can be applied through one of several different application methods. These are detailed on the PSU website, and some examples include: stem injection, basal bark, and foliar. The correct method depends on several factors. The formulation of a particular herbicide might be different when that herbicide is used in different application methods. The treatment needs to consider the species, plant form, owner objectives, and the context of the management need.

5. You can narrow down the options of the product to use based on the bulletin listed in #2 above and by talking with people who have experience with multiple products. Once you have some options, review the labels online using the links in #1 above. The labels will specify for NY which products are legal with a particular application method. NY pesticide law requires that the label approves the corresponding use of the product, the application method, and the target species. The label will also give the recipe to mix the chemical to the appropriate concentration. In NY, it is legal for agricultural applications, including forestry, to apply a chemical at less than the specified rate. Some situations may not require a full strength application.

6. Cornell Cooperative Extension and NYFOA often have workshops

that discuss and illustrate examples of herbicide applications. Take advantage of these workshops to learn about equipment and products. Work with your local CCE office or NYFOA chapter if there isn't a workshop scheduled near your home county.

Vegetation management is often not a single event, but requires careful thought, planning, and sustained effort. The adage "a stitch in time saves nine" applies to vegetation management; catching an interfering plant species before it become problematic can save considerable cost and effort. Be alert in your woods, seek assistance when you have questions, and work safely. 🌲

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



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Timber Topics:

The Players in a Timber Sale and Their Concerns

HUGH CANHAM AND RONALD PEDERSEN

Only four of the five players in a timber sale have a voice: the seller, the forester, the logger, and the mill. The fifth — the trees — must accept the hand they are dealt. Each of the others has options to consider, choices to be made and contingencies to provide for. If successful, they are experts in their field, but know a lot about the others' hands as well, and obviously have an interest in how the sale plays out.

The more you, the landowner, understand the many different issues and conditions surrounding a timber sale, the better equipped you will be to make decisions along with your forester and appreciate all that the buyer/logger must take into account when preparing a bid and ultimately carry out the provisions of the contract. So, while your trees may not have a voice, they are the player that brings together and indeed influences each of the players.

In this and succeeding columns, we plan to discuss some of the options and contingencies faced by all players in a timber sale, because directly or indirectly these options and contingencies affect the owner as well.

Let's consider the timber buyer. This might be an independent logger who then sells the logs to a mill or other processor. Alternatively, the buyer might be an agent working directly for a sawmill or other wood manufacturing firm (furniture plant, paper mill, biomass operation, etc.). Of course an important element is the price to offer for the timber. However, long before this the buyer must consider many other things: **quantity** and kind of trees being put up for sale; **access** and logging conditions; **envi-**

ronmental considerations such as wetlands etc.; **marketing** strategies such as all to one mill or selectively trucked to different outlets; and **interaction** of this sale with other operations either under way or being considered.

Separate from the stumpage price are other constant concerns of the logger: **equipment** maintenance and replacement; **legal** requirements from insurance to licenses; **personnel** hiring and subcontracting; and **training** of personnel and keeping up with new regulations and technology. Remember, the logger is a business person with all the concerns of any business.

Your forester is working for you. However, he is also concerned with how the timber buyer will look at the prospective sale and professional ethics. In addition to determining the species, amount, and grade of timber and marking trees, other things go through your forester's mind. These include: **products** that might be harvested from the woodlot; **quantity** of timber in total sale; **density** or amount of timber volume per acre; **environmental** conditions (soil, drainage, wildlife, etc.);

boundary identification and location; **access** and skid roads; and **long-term** growth and development of the woodlot. Indeed, many of the same things that are of concern to the timber buyer are also of concern to your forester. In some respects, your forester should have professional capacity that parallels the attention provided by your family's medical doctor or lawyer. They should understand and consider your entire situation. The family doctor, lawyer, or your forester may call in specialists to assist in unique situations but they know you best and are the first place you go to for advice and assistance.

In subsequent columns we will consider in more detail each of the things buyer and forester must consider. Understanding these will make you a better forest owner and manager of your assets. ▲

Hugh Canham is a retired professor from SUNY ESF and a member of NYFOA's CNY chapter. Ron Pedersen is a past President of NYFOA, current Vice President and a member of the Capital District chapter.

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Brush Clearing Saw (continued)

it has its shortcomings in other forest management activities such as thinning small diameter saplings, clearing undesirable brush, or controlling beech sprouts. For these tasks a brush clearing saw outperforms a chain saw hands down. A chainsaw does not even come close to competing with a clearing saw when it comes to cutting large numbers of small diameter stems.

Soon after my introduction to the brush clearing saw I did some research and comparison shopping and purchased my first saw. Since acquiring my new big boy toy I barely have touched my chainsaw except to cut up some large limbs for firewood. I must admit, I had held an undeserved prejudice against the clearing saw. In my ignorance I viewed it as not much more than a glorified weed eater capable of cutting only perennial weeds and the smallest woody stems. Boy was I mistaken!

Three things make a clearing saw superior to a chain saw for cutting small to medium sized stems at ground level. The operator works standing upright while cutting at ground level, the weight of the saw is supported by the operator's body not the arms and the circular saw blade cuts faster and more efficiently than a saw chain.

The design of the clearing saw makes it operator friendly, easy to use and safer to operate compared to a chainsaw. The weight of the clearing saw is supported by an ergonomic harness that includes a shoulder harness and waist belt that distributes the weight of the machine over the operator's body. This reduces fatigue of the arms and back from holding and lifting a chain saw and constantly bending over. The four foot long shaft and the angled circular blade that is parallel with the ground allows the operator to cut stems flush to the ground while standing in a natural upright stance. A person can work all day in this position with little effort or fatigue. That certainly wouldn't be the case if using a chainsaw all day. Only a slight shift of the body and movement of the handle is necessary to cut each stem and then a quick step or two to the next stem and then on to the next one. With the harness, the adjustable handle

bar and thumb throttle, one has very precise control and maneuverability of the blade which allows accurate cutting of the target stems without accidentally cutting adjacent stems or hitting rocks and other obstructions.

The long shaft of the clearing saw enables one to reach into a thicket of branches or a rose bush to cut the stem close to the ground without having to fight through all of the branches. The reach of the blade keeps the operator out of harm's way from rose thorns, honeysuckle branches and autumn olive spines. This is very important when dealing with many types of invasive plants that have dense branches, sharp thorns or spines, as there is no other practical way of quickly and efficiently cutting these plants.

I find the clearing saw is far safer to operate than a chainsaw. With the blade located at the end of the shaft and the saw supported by the body harness, the blade is kept out of reach of the operator's extremities. Even kickback from the blade, which occurs fairly regularly when cutting multiple stems, is easily controlled and harmlessly deflected away from the operator by the harness.

The clearing saw achieves greater efficiency compared to the chainsaw by using a circular blade instead of a saw chain. The clearing saw is equipped with a 9" diameter, 24 tooth, circular blade that can spin between 2,800 rpm idle speed and up to 10,000 rpm at working speed. The high number of cutting teeth and high rpm, plus a thinner saw kerf enables the blade to cut rapidly through wood, especially smaller diameter stems ranging from 1" to 4" in diameter. Small diameter stems tend to have softer wood than large diameter trunks and most fast growing invasive species also have soft woody tissues, which facilitates rapid cutting. The small wood chip each tooth produces allows the blade to cut through even very small stems cleanly without the blade catching or the stem being bent or whipped back at the operator. This doesn't happen with a conventional chainsaw.

The brush clearing saw definitely has a place for the land owner in managing their property. There are three jobs

where I can see a landowner using a clearing saw for that purpose. The first and maybe the most important task in maintaining a biologically healthy property is to control the full range of woody invasive shrubs and small trees that populate your property or inevitably will invade your property. The clearing saw will make short work of these invasive plants. Once all of the larger plants are cut and treated then it takes very little time and effort to keep your property free of new invasives and to treat any remaining seedlings, as they grow larger. From personal experience it initially takes between 4 and 8 hours using the clearing saw to treat each acre of land depending on the density of stems.

The next two tasks are very similar to the first except for the difference in the species being controlled. They are selectively thinning tree saplings and removing less valuable species in the woodlot and controlling beech sprouts. Both jobs require selectively cutting many small to medium sized woody stems. The physical activity involved in each operation is identical but the distinction between the two occurs when the operator makes the critical management decision regarding which stems to cut and which species to save or remove.

I suggest if you have never used a brush clearing saw before, that you take the opportunity to try one out. I think you will discover, like I did, that you will fall in love with the machine and will want one of your own. If you are managing a property of a few acres or more you will discover that a brush clearing saw will make your life so much easier. It will allow you to perform certain tasks so much faster and with less effort than you could ever do with a chainsaw. The only risk involved is that you might never touch your faithful chainsaw again.

To view a brush clearing saw in action, go to www.youtube.com and type in: whiteoaknursery2 in the search box. There are 3 separate videos demonstrating the saw. 📺

Jim Engel is owner of White Oak Nursery, a native tree and shrub nursery and provides many types of ecological services. Nursery website is www.whiteoaknursery.biz

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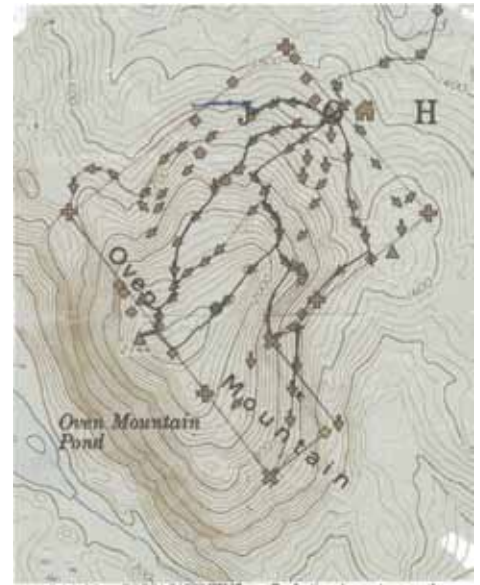
CARLY NEUMANN

Robert Manning and his wife of 51 years Tomoko own 229 acres of wooded property in Johnsbury, NY. The couple lives in Garnet Lake 11 miles from their wooded property. Manning is a retired science teacher and graduated from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in 1957 with a degree in Forestry. Since retiring, Manning is happy to be actively involved in forestry again both through owning his woodlands as well as with NYFOA. Manning is currently the chapter Treasurer of the Southern Adirondack Chapter and served two years as Vice-chair and two years as Chair. He is also a NY Master Forester Owner Volunteer.

Manning met his wife while serving with the Navy in Japan. Later as a Department of Defense civilian he taught for 29 years on two different military bases in Japan. One of the benefits of his teaching career in Japan was the freedom to return to the United States in the summer. The couple flew back to NY each summer, free of charge because of his position, and moved back in 1997

to Johnsbury. As a skier Manning was particularly interested in living in the Adirondacks. It wasn't until 2005 that Manning found the forested property that they now own, located on the top of Oven Mountain, which overlooks the Gore Mountain Ski Area in North Creek, NY. Manning had snowshoed the property before he knew it was for sale while looking for a good place to photograph Gore Mountain. The property was at one point owned by International Paper Company and then sold, was logged heavily 20 years ago and then bought by someone who wanted to develop it. The plans called for subdividing the property but fell through for several reasons. The main reason being accessibility that affects Manning's use of the property today. The access road is private and crosses through many other private properties and also had no power lines.

Manning manages the completely forested property along with consulting forester, Steve Warne. Most of the forest is northern hardwood type. The



A map of the hiking trails mapped using GPS.

elevation of the property affects the quality of the forest. The higher quality trees occur at the lower elevations. The mountaintop also poses what Manning acknowledges as their largest problem for management, blow down due to wind. Much of the regeneration in areas of higher elevation is of low value species such as striped maple. Deer browsing also hinders maple and oak regeneration. He spends a significant amount of time each year clearing the trails as well as marking boundaries. The Manning's heat their house on Garnet Lake during the colder months using a woodstove powered by firewood harvested from their woodlands.

As far as management is concerned Steve Warne has marked out 60 acres of the lower property for an improvement cut spurred by birch trees on the southern slope of the mountain that are beginning to die due to age. Manning is concerned with finding a logger for the job due to the mainly low quality of the marked timber.

Manning also considers the fate of his property. The couple has three sons and the closest lives in Boston, MA. The Manning's other two sons along with their four grandchildren live in Colorado and California. Only his son from Boston has been involved with the



Manning's three children and three of the four grandchildren.

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The sugaring site.



Tomoko Manning stacking wood.



View from Oven Mountain in the fall.

woodlands because he lives the closest. The owners of the property around Manning's land recently completed a large logging job and with permission from Manning cleared a logging road across the corner of Manning's lot. The positive part of this logging operation's use of his property is the improvement to the private road used to access the property.

What Manning enjoys most about his property is the opportunity to take family and friends hiking up Oven Mountain. He cleared some of the trees at the summit to increase the view. He especially enjoys showing them some of the historical elements of his property. There is also an old garnet mine that now mainly looks like a pile of rocks but you can still find the occasional garnet (a mineral and gemstone). Old maple sugar pails indicate a maple sugaring operation occurred in the 1930's. Oven Mountain has three peaks and between the peaks there is a large vernal pool. Manning recommends that other woodland owners find a good forester but also learn as much as they can about their land and enjoy it. ▲

Carly Neumann is a Forest Resources Extension Program Assistant at Cornell University, Dept. of Natural Resources, Ithaca, NY 14853. Dr. Shorna Allred is the faculty advisor for the Member Profile Series.



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MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Materials submitted for the May/June 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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