

New York

Forest Owner

November - December 1976



**Christmas tree growing • European trip details
Sell your timber • FIP • Deer • Wetlands Act • Ponds**

THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Volume 14 No.6

Thoughts on the Sept.-Oct. Issue -

"The cover picture brings back memories of driving cattle or sheep along such a road.

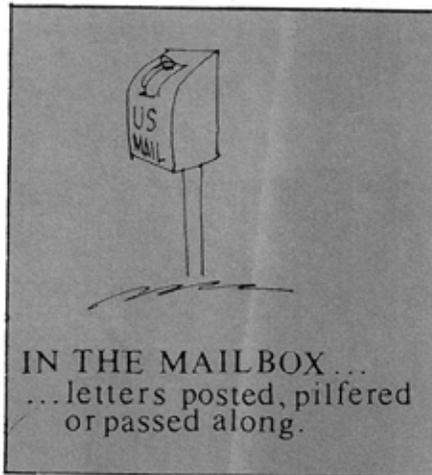
I must compliment Ed Moot on his article. He and I carried on a series of "debates" by letter a couple of years ago. We have disagreed in detail, but our general aims are the same. I have to give him a mark for his article!"

Howard Ward
Candor, N.Y.

Humor from the Warren County Fair Exhibit -

"Publicity wise it was worthwhile, there were thousands of visitors, we were interviewed on T.V. and had a few lines in the various papers around - no front page headlines in the Ithaca Journal and nothing like what Moses was promised by his P.R. man when he got to the Red Sea. With Pharaoh's army on his tail, he was desperate. Then his P.R. man said to him, 'I have no idea what you can do now. But if you do find a solution, I can get you three pages in the Old Testament.'"

Alfred Najer
Chestertown, N.Y.



Correction -

"There is an error in my article on page 4, next-to-last line. It is supposed to read 'mast-producing species', not 'mass-producing'. A common definition of mast is 'the fruit of oak, hickory, beech, gum, cherry, ash, and other tree and shrub species.'"

Bob Morrow
Cornell University

To Ron Baldwin -

"Your articles are excellent. They tell it like it is. Keep up the good work."

Dave Taber
SUNY, Syracuse

About Advertising -

"Re. your suggestions about ad selling: Why not ask members to get at least one ad in their area with no thought of compensation? Maybe if we take our membership seriously we can come up with enough ads to pay for the entire printing. When we do that we are on the way up."

E.N. Moot
Schenectady, N.Y.

Senator Buckley Responds to Allen Bratton -

"I support the amended version of S.3091, allowing the Forest Service to establish its own guidelines on national forest management, but requiring that the guidelines be determined for region, type, and specie. Clearcutting could then be used only in accordance with the Secretary's guidelines.

I am convinced that part of the solution lies in enlarging the supply of timber utilized. The national forests and industry-owned forests together account for less than one-half of the commercial forest land . . . I am very receptive to amendments which would lessen disincentives to timber production on private lands."

James L. Buckley
U.S. Senator

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October 12, 1976

Message from the President

There is a new spirit abroad in the Association membership and in the Board of Directors!

NYFOA is on the way up. Our membership stands at five hundred, seventy more than last year at this time. It increases at the rate of 7-8 every month. We will be pleased to send you some membership brochures to distribute to your forest owner friends or to others who have an interest in conserving our forest resources. You may mail the brochure by placing a 13 cent stamp in the place provided.

Much of this growth is due to the cooperative attitude of the Directors and the various Board committees. The membership committee is responsible for a large share of the increase in membership. The committee has had an NYFOA exhibit at meetings of related organizations.

Committees have kept the membership informed of changes in the forest tax law. Other committees have developed plans for woods walks which have attracted 30-50 local people. The Fall and Spring meeting programs have brought out larger numbers of members.

The Forest Owner has had a face-lift. It is more readable, being more professional in appearance and content.

Other farm and conservation oriented periodicals have published comprehensive articles about the purposes and activities of NYFOA.

These are a few of the reasons NYFOA has taken a new lease on life. Thanks to everyone who has had a part in it! Let's keep it up.

Sincerely yours,

Lloyd G. Strombeck
Lloyd G. Strombeck



Wanted: People to sell ads for Forest Owner magazine. Commission basis. Decent arrangements. Contact Editor at 526 Anderson Hill Road, R.D. 2, Candor, N.Y. 13743.

Wanted: Classified and display ads for Forest Owner magazine, circulation 500. Ads appropriate to forest owners most welcome. \$5 per column inch for display ads. 10 cents per word for classifieds. Suppliers, consulting forester, land . . . you name it.

For Sale: What have you got to sell, swap, or donate? Use this space. Submit ads with proper amount of money to Editor, 526 Anderson Hill Road, Candor, N.Y. 13743.

NYFOA Natural Resources Committee

From time to time the Natural Resources Committee of the NYFOA will have published in the "Forest Owner" various sources of information and assistance that might be useful to the membership. Members are urged to communicate their opinions, questions, criticisms, hang-ups, and desires relative to forest land management to the Natural Resources Committee. This will make the work of the Committee more valuable to the members and more relevant to their interests.

Please address your communications to one or any of the following:

- A. W. Roberts (Chmn), R.F.D. 3, Cortland, New York 13045
- D. H. Hanaburgh, Box 122, Buchanan, New York 10511
- William Lubinec, 22 Cornish Avenue, Binghamton, New York 13901
- W. C. Craig, R.D. 1, Sherburne, New York 13460

FORESTRY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

for the FOREST LANDOWNER



WHAT THE FORESTRY INCENTIVES PROGRAM IS ALL ABOUT

The Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) was authorized by Congress in 1973 to share the cost of tree planting and timber stand improvement with private landowners. The Federal share of these costs ranges from 50 to 75 percent, depending upon the cost-share rate set in your particular State and county by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) committee.

The Forestry Incentives Program is available in counties designated on the basis of a Forest Service survey of total eligible private timber acreage and acreage potentially suitable for production of timber products. To find out if your county is participating in this program, check with your county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) office, Agricultural Service Center or Extension Service office.

WHY THE PROGRAM WAS STARTED

The demand for wood in this country is expected to exceed the supply within 30 years unless many more trees are planted each year and much more forest land is placed under good forest management. Lands owned by the forest industry and by the public are being planted and improved at the fastest rate possible. But smaller private owners, who control the majority of forest lands in the Nation, do not have the funds to make such long-term investments. Therefore, the Forestry Incentives Program is designed to share this expense with these private, eligible owners.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR FIP?

To be eligible for cost-share assistance under FIP, a landowner must:

1. Own a tract of no more than 500 acres of eligible forest land (unless the Secretary of Agriculture determines it is in the public interest to grant an exception for a larger unit).

2. Be a private forest landowner. Any individual, group, association or corporation may be eligible provided they are not regularly engaged in the business of manufacturing forest products or providing public utility services of any type.

3. Have land that is suitable for forestation if presently not in trees; for reforestation; or for improved forest management. Usually, the eligible species for planting are softwoods, but hardwoods proven to be successfully plantable may be approved in specified areas.

4. Have land that is capable of producing marketable timber crops and meets minimum productivity standards established for this program in his State.

5. Have had no commercial harvest on lands for which FIP cost-sharing application is made within the past five years. Salvage cuttings, cuttings to regenerate unproductive stands, and cuttings to convert unproductive species are not considered commercial harvest, so are exempted from this rule.

Note: If you are not eligible for cost-sharing under FIP, you may be eligible under another program. Check with your county ASCS office for information on other types of assistance available.

(continued)



Participation in the Forestry Incentives Program is open to all eligible landowners who bear part of the cost of an approved practice regardless of race, color, religion, national origin or sex.

ELIGIBLE FORESTRY PRACTICES

FP1. Planting Trees.

This practice is intended to increase the production of timber and improve the environment. Site preparation is an authorized part of the practice if certified by the forester as being necessary. Information on eligible species and planting requirements is available from your State forestry agency, county ASCS office or Agricultural Service Center.

FP2. Improving a Stand of Forest Trees.

This practice is aimed at increasing growth of trees on sites suitable for production of sawtimber and veneer logs. Both softwood and hardwood improvement practices will qualify. Pre-commercial thinning, pruning of crop trees, and releasing desirable seedlings and young trees are acceptable measures, as well as site preparation for natural regeneration.

Limitations.

The maximum cost shares that a person can earn annually for forestry practices under FIP is \$10,000. Contact the U.S. Forest Service, your State forester, your county ASCS office, Agricultural Service Center or Extension Service office for more details.

Cost-sharing will be allowed only once on the same acre of ownership. The only exception permitted is for release of planted trees from overtopping vegetation when specified by the forester.

How to Obtain Cost-Share Help

FIP is administered by ASCS. Your county ASCS office will handle all payments earned under the program.

The first step you must take is to contact your county ASCS office or Agricultural Service Center and apply for the program. They will then ask the State forestry agency to examine your property and certify the need for the practice you have in mind.

A forest management plan must be developed through consultations between you and the State forester to qualify for cost-sharing. When completed, the plan must be approved by the State forester or his representative and a copy provided to the county ASC committee.

The State forestry agency will provide technical advice to you and help you find approved vendors (if needed) for getting the work accomplished.

Finally, the State forestry agency must certify that the project has been completed satisfactorily so your cost-share payments can be made by the county ASCS office or Agricultural Service Center.

Long-Term Agreements

Under long-term agreements, a landowner can plan tree planting and timber stand improvement over a period of 3 to 10 years and be assured of cost sharing for practices to be carried out in future years. There is a payment limitation of \$10,000 to any person during any year of the agreement.



Deposited by a glacier 10,000 years ago, this balancing rock was just one of the features of the woods walk at Ken and Ruth Eberley's Panther Mountain Tree Farm, September 25th.

27 attend woods walk

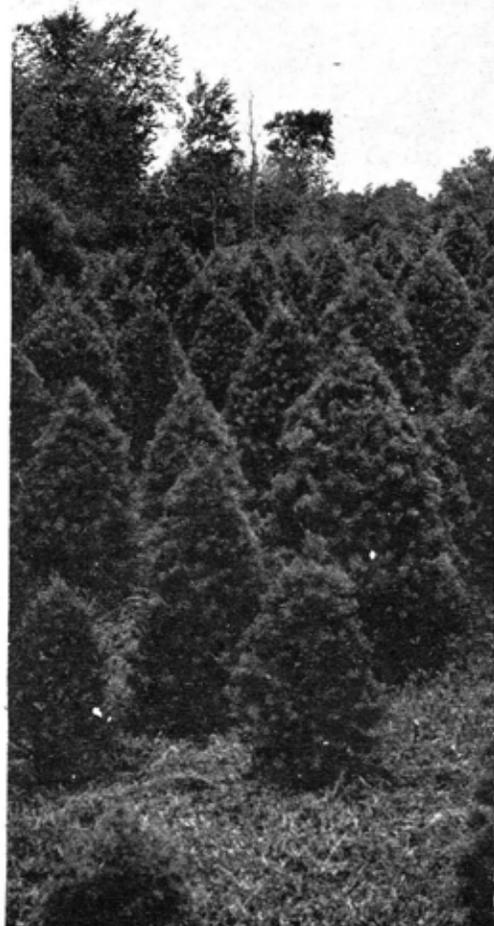
Sunny weather greeted a good crowd of 27 at Eberley's tree farm in Otsego County.

Woods walks are one of the fine activities sponsored by the New York State Forest Owners Association to help members get the most from their woods. Make plans to attend the next woods walk.

Christmas Tree Growing ...

are you and your land suited?

by Alan Knight



One of the first ideas a landowner often considers for using his land is growing Christmas trees. It seems on the surface to be an interesting way to make profitable and pleasant use of land. Some income can be generated, family youngsters can earn some money and have responsibility, and the trees are very attractive additions to the countryside landscape. But what are the facts of the matter: Is it really a worthwhile way to use land? While no one can define "worthwhile" but you, there are some things you should consider in making your decision.

Rating your land. It's important to know your soil, especially its drainage characteristics. We can look at soils maps, or we can dig a hole 18 inches deep and look at the actual soils characteristics. One of the "landmarks" is rusty streaking. The depth of the streaking or mottling below the surface gives us an indication of the level of the water table at the wettest time of year. Also, by digging we can find out how shallow the soil is to bedrock and that, too, is very important. Well drained soils have mottling below 24 inches. Those that are moderately drained have it around the 16 to 18 inch level. Anything worse than that is somewhat poorly drained or very bad indeed. Drainage is important because tree roots need oxygen, and do not get that oxygen in water logged soil.

Fertility is also important. Luxuriant weed growth is an indication of soil fertility. Where lush weed growth is present, there are usually enough nutrients and moisture for trees to survive. On the soils with poor weed growth, there is great stress on trees for moisture and nutrients. Also, check the coloration of evergreen trees in the site. If native white pine or volunteer spruce have an off color in some trees, certain minerals may be deficient. This is often the case in Southern Tier uplands where White pine frequently have a bluish tint.

Rating the market. Analyzing the potential for making money is always a hazardous business. Certainly, one of the best pieces of advice is to visit someone who is already in the business. Ask questions and you'll likely get good answers. They're not afraid of competition, since more growers in the area mean more wholesale buyers will be interested in visiting the region.

"U-Cut" Christmas tree businesses, like the "U-Pick" vegetable farms, are becoming more and more popular. It is popular because many people find it a fine family experience to choose and cut their own tree. Moreover, they are more likely to accept the quality of the trees they cut than the trees in the corner lot of the store. With regular retail sales, and to some degree with U-Cut lots, location along a busy thoroughfare becomes important.

Wholesaling is another option open to a Christmas tree grower. Buyers of large quantities have visited this area

in the past and some local wholesalers have tried their hand at buying. Selling wholesale reduces the margin of profit, but also reduces the risk of not selling a number of trees.

In short, rate the market by considering what trees you can grow, where you are located (either in growing or selling, they needn't be the same place), and your zest for promoting your product. That brings us to the third factor...you.

Rating Yourself. Goals are the first consideration in deciding whether to grow Christmas trees. Write it down. "What is my goal?" Your answers could be-

- to have pretty trees on my land
- to make enough money to send two kids to college
- to make enough money to pay taxes on the land.
- to put my children to work when they reach age 12.

- to have a family business experience
- to put my land to productive, even if unprofitable, use.

See all the choices? And you can certainly add your own. But only after establishing your goals, or perhaps what you are willing to settle for can you decide how to proceed or if to proceed.

As for time demands, there are some to consider. Christmas trees is not a crop for someone wanting to plant trees and forget them. There is site preparation (maybe clearing of woods), periodic shearing for shape and fullness, brush and weed control, spraying, fertilizing, travel to other plantations for keeping abreast of techniques, business negotiations with stores, wholesalers, or employees, cutting and trucking.

And don't forget rodent control and mowing of your plantation.

According to Cornell University figures, it costs approximately \$1.25 to produce a tree in nine years that is worth \$2.50 on the stump. But only 40 to 60 percent of the trees originally planted may be saleable. You may lose, break even, or win.

The US Department of Agriculture has published a pamphlet entitled, "Dollars, and Decisions in Tree Planting". This is a workbook into which you can write your own personal financial factors. When done, you should have fairly good estimates of cost for planting, interest on planting costs, maintenance costs, cumulative maintenance costs, total production costs, and returns from tree plantings. If interested, contact the Extension office.

Making the decision. Decisions are a lonely business. Probably, they're influenced more by what you want to do than by facts. But be assured that after eight to ten years, some money will be returning if you follow through. Whether you make a significant enough amount of money depends on you, your goals, your marketing skills, and correct decisions in tree management.

Recreation Activities can provide Income Opportunities

The private forest landowner has many potential opportunities for recreation income from the natural resources of the land.

Some of these are hunting leases, hunting fees, fishing leases, fishing fees, family campsite leases, overnight camping fees, picnic grounds, institutional campsites, picking or collecting fees, contributing recreation sites (horsetrails, cross-country ski trails, snowmobile trails, etc.), special features (overlooks, caves, historic sites, natural wonders, etc.). Opportunities for this vary greatly with individual parcels but any land in New York State has some potential for recreation.

Recreation resources for income require isolation, sometimes development, and usually careful marketing. The simplest to manage are annual or periodic leases of rights, sites, or privileges. Some of the more common of these are hunting rights, fishing rights and campsite leases. Income expectations can be approximately taxes plus ten percent. Public liability insurance is advisable. These resources tend to be self-policing and require the development of no special accommodations. There is a minimum of government interference.



When improvements like sanitation, drinking, cooking or shelter facilities are provided, government inspection and regulation may become a burden. Policing becomes a much greater problem. Much time is required for development, maintenance and administration. Careful consideration must be given to the relative costs and returns.

(Submitted by the NYFOA Natural Resources Committee — David H. Hanaburgh.)

Photo Contest for Unusual Trees...



A yellow birch latched on to a hemlock stump.



Earl Pfarner says, "This sugar maple must have become bent over and tried to recover. I call it 'If at first you don't succeed, try, try, again.'"

You Should See

(a primer on)

by A.W. F.

The woods are full of misconceptions about selling timber. But it needn't be so confusing or scary. People sell timber every day. You could, too, once you understand what's involved, and what the misconceptions are. Let's separate the forest from the trees.

Misconception number one is possibly that here in the Northeast we are rapidly running out of timber. However, according to the periodic timber inventories made by the U.S. Forest Service, we are actually growing more wood than is being cut. What we are running lower on is large, high quality sawtimber. So forest management should aim to reduce the amount of smaller, low quality timber in our stands through periodic, intermediate harvests and thinnings. This would develop and speed up the growth on the larger, high quality timber which brings high stumpage prices.

Another misconception may be that all log buyers are at best slightly unscrupulous, and at worst, thieves, who buy your timber for a pittance and sell lumber at a scandalous profit. True, as they say, it takes all kinds. However, the very large majority of log buyers and lumber manufacturers are honest businessmen engaged in a very competitive enterprise. They have large costs in wages, as the lumber business is still pretty labor intensive, and they have huge investments in equipment. On one rather small logging job I handled for an owner about a year ago, the timber sold for \$13,000 and I estimated the buyer had at least \$200,000 worth of logging and trucking equipment on the job. The logger and sawmill must make a profit or go out of business. Without a lumber industry you would be growing your trees just for scenery and the birds. (Which, if that's your bag, is o.k. too. When you are gone your heirs will have some fine timber to sell)

There are some other misconceptions about timber sales, but I will get to them later.

The Basics.

What are some of the basics? Probably number one is, "Is there a market for the trees you happen to have in your woods?" Sadly, the answer may be no.... too small, too big (and rotten), not enough volume or value per acre to pay to bring in the equipment, wrong species. However, in the past several years there has been practically a revolution in what you can sell from your woods. This has been

due to several factors among which are 1. Advances in kiln drying some species, 2. a huge increase in the need for small, low quality hardwood for pallets, 3. an increase in the use of hardwoods for pulpwood and pressed boards, 4. better logging and milling equipment which can economically utilize smaller trees, 5. a small market for fringe products such as cabin logs and fuel wood. A limiting factor may be the size of your woodlot; although with today's equipment almost no lot is too small if it has good timber, is easily accessible, and near a mill. The ultimate in smallness is that a buyer would buy one good black walnut tree in your front yard.

For general interest the markets vary from the single front-yard walnut tree for fine furniture and gun stocks, to small softwood plantation thinnings for pulpwood. In between are veneer logs of oak, birch, maple for cabinets and furniture which bring real premium prices and have strict standards, through ash for bats, handles and furniture, hard maple, cherry, butternut for furniture and panelling, basswood for ladders, beech, soft maple, etc. for lower quality furniture and turnings. In each species quality and size are of utmost importance.

So you think you do have some timber which is saleable? Then what is it worth? It seems like a simple question with a simple answer. But alas, this is another misconception. It is really very complicated. The problem is there are hundreds of variables affecting the amount of money a buyer can and will pay you for the sum total of the trees you have for sale in your woods. And these act and react with each other in different ways. I will list some of them: 1. *Species* — some common species may be worth four times as much per thousand board feet (MBF) as others; and to complicate it furniture styles like clothing styles constantly change, putting the value of a species up one month and down the next.

ll Your Timber

n timber sales)

oberts

2. *Quality* — Large, high quality maple may be worth over one hundred dollars per MBF, while low quality may be worth a dollar a ton (at about seven tons per thousand). 3. *Accessibility* — Is your woods right along a road, or a mile back in, across a swamp? Is it in a steep gorge, or on nice flat land? 4. *Volume per acre* — Can the logger pick up a lot of timber in a concentrated bunch, or does he have to search all over many acres in order to pick up scattered trees? 5. *Competition* — Are there several companies in your area all interested in buying your timber, and do they know you know this? No intelligent buyer would, or should pay more for a woodlot than he THOUGHT he had to to outbid a competitor. And remember this is an intensely competitive business, and it isn't too hard to take a loss on any one purchase. To stay in business the loss has to be made up on other purchases.

The Marketing.

A "how to do it" list can vary considerably depending how knowledgeable you are concerning timber, where you live in relation to your woodlot, how much of the work you want to do yourself, how big your sale is, etc. But unless you are a professional forester, almost daily involved in the growing and selling of timber, you should get some degree of unbiased advice from someone who is. There is lots of advice available both free and for hire.*** The expert can advise you on or do for you any or all of the following things: 1. Tell you if you have anything to sell. 2. Tell you if present market conditions are advantageous to you for a sale. 3. Advise you on the silvical and economic maturity of your trees. 4. Mark each tree which should be cut and give you an estimate of the total volume and value for the sale. 5. Advise on markets and solicit bids. 6. Advise you on writing a contract with the buyer to, among other things help you avoid bad effects mentioned above. 7. Supervise the actual cutting of the timber.



There are also things you must do yourself. Some of these are: 1. Locate your boundary lines and guarantee good title to the timber you are selling. 2. Remember, the woods belongs to you and you should ultimately be responsible for keeping it in good productive condition over the long period. In view of this you should at least walk through your woods with the Forester to discuss your management goals. There is considerable leeway within good forestry practices for how your woods can be cut. If you are in severe need for immediate cash income it would be reasonable to cut heavily. If you want to maximize your income over a longer period you can leave more and larger trees for future growth. Each species and for each location and site the trees have a size at which they are economically mature and should be cut. The Forester can advise you on this, but you still, in the light of your own circumstances, should have input on the type of cut you want. Besides the purely economic decisions, you can effect the type of cut in line with your desires as to wildlife, esthetics, and how much you want the buyer to do in the way of top lopping, erosion control, etc.

(continued)

The Benefits.

6. *General economic condition* in the housing and furniture business — Stumpage prices are particularly susceptible to the laws of supply and demand. General Motors can calculate exactly what it costs them to build a car, but what did it cost the farmer to grow that eighteen inch maple tree on his back forty over the past eighty to one hundred years? Chances are if he takes a notion to sell, he'll take what he can get for it. And here is one of the few places where an owner can affect how much he gets for his timber. Unless forced to sell at a particular time, he can wait until economic conditions are right for a sale. Of course this makes it tough on buyers, as he may buy stumpage when economic conditions are good and prices high. Then by the time he can get it cut and sawn and marketed economic conditions may have dropped. There is often a year or two between the time the stumpage has been bought and paid for and the time the timber has been logged, milled and sold. So the logger has to depend on buying on a low market and selling on a high at least once in a while. 7. *Other less important factors* — A special market development for a particular buyer; amount of timber a buyer may happen to have been able to accumulate in his mill yard for one reason or other; what the seller of the timber may require of the buyer, such as cutting culls, lopping tops, fixing roads, requiring a bond, insurance, etc.

Since all of these variables act and interact on one another, it gets pretty complicated. In the final analysis your timber is only worth (in dollars) what you as an informed seller get as an offer from an informed buyer.

The Bad Effects.

As there are benefits, admittedly there can also be detriments in selling timber. However, ninety-five percent of the bad effects can be avoided or controlled. Generally, what are these effects, and how are they avoided? Quickly listed some bad effects which come to some people's minds are ugliness of slash (or as the new language says, "visual pollution"), soil erosion, stream sedimentation, ugly landings, damage to the residual stand, failure of the stand to reproduce itself following cutting.

These can all be avoided by techniques devised by professional foresters, and which should be written into a contract between the seller and buyer*** But be prepared to take a possible reduction in your stumpage price for each restriction or requirement written into the contract.

***See "Timber Harvesting Guidelines for N.Y." which is a free leaflet put out by the Society of American Foresters and the State University College of Env. Science and Forestry.

Many benefits accrue from the sale of timber. The relative importance of each depends on your point of view. I will mention a few and leave the rating of their relative importance to you. 1. *Income to the owner* to help reimburse him for the many costs which have gone into the production of the timber over the years, such as taxes, thinning costs, loss of income from the land from an alternate use. 2. *Helps the economy of the area* by providing raw material to industries which hire people and produce a profit. 3. *Improves habitat for game*. An old growth forest provides little forage for game. Openings made by cuttings provide a variety of cover types and food. 4. *Puts to use a resource which would otherwise go to waste*. Since trees are living organisms they cannot be kept, as in a museum, indefinitely. They inevitably die. Even before they actually die, growth slows up and decay speeds up, so the net growth for many years is zero. With non-renewable resources being used up at an ever accelerating rate it is imperative that the best use be made of renewable resources such as timber. 5. *Miscellaneous*. Intermediate harvests of smaller products improve and increase the growth on final crop trees; income received is treated as capital gains; you get fuelwood from tops; and to me there is great satisfaction in a harvest which is the culmination of years of managing, planning, watching and waiting for what I sincerely believe to be the finest ultimate destiny of a tree.



The Cover

Some forest owners make good use of their lands by growing Christmas trees. Be sure to read this month's article about this activity. Our cover illustration is by Rudolph A. Wendelin, who drew it for the 1949 Yearbook of Agriculture.

Deer Forest

by A. DeForest Marsters

Deer need forests, but do forests need deer? Deer can be very detrimental to trees under certain conditions — if you own an orchard in a deer wintering area. But even under these conditions, I think deer are an essential part of a forest.

During the settlement of this country, deer supplied food and clothing for early pioneers. Even today, the 103 thousand deer taken in New York State during the 1974 and 1975 seasons supplied an enormous amount of meat and hides for buckskin. There are more deer on this continent today than ever before — some 12-13 million.

I personally like to see deer in the woods and if they are not there, I feel something is missing. We can't put an accurate estimate on the esthetic value of seeing a deer, but in New York alone it must run into the millions of dollars.

I own a small 20-acre woodlot in Chenango County. When I purchased the land over a dozen years ago, to some people it was a disaster. During the late 50's a logger had cut over the area, taking any tree merchantable. There were tops lying on the ground, berry bushes growing up, and all the larger trees were culls.



How can you put a dollar value on seeing a deer on your property, especially a trophy buck like the one in this picture?



A couple of nice bucks taken off my woodlot during the 1974 deer season, they're not trees, but are a crop that can be harvested from your woodlands. The gentleman on my right is Charlie Prenis and is widely known throughout central New York for his ability to build log cabins, a growing forest industry.

But to me it was *just* what I wanted. I bought land to insure a place to hunt deer, grouse and rabbits in the future, and there were abundant signs of them here.

Under the New York Forest Practice Act, the larger cull trees and some of the other undesirable trees have been cleaned out to let the "better" trees grow. Even though this area is in a winter deer concentration area, enough seedlings survived to become saplings. Now, several years later, the saplings have turned into small pole timber and to the untrained eye, it looks like a young, "untouched" forest.

The area is covered with hardwoods: Red Oak; Sugar Maple; Red Maple; Ash; Yellow Birch; Sweet Birch; Beech; some white Pines and Hemlock. It will be another 20 years or so before the trees are merchantable.

Some larger woodland owners lease their lands to sportsmen's clubs to pay the taxes, but if you own a small lot, just enjoy your woodlot wildlife. During the time needed to grow mature hardwoods I have had the enjoyment of working in the woods, watching the trees grow, and getting immeasurable satisfaction out of watching and hunting wildlife, especially deer, on this woodlot.

Ah... the beauty of a pond.

by Howard Ward



Farm ponds, wild-life refuges, flood control, storage for irrigation, recreation — there are many types of ponds. Should you have one? Yes!

Do you like to sit on the shore of a stream, lake, or ocean and watch the water? Who doesn't! Do you like to fish, boat, swim? Almost everyone likes one or another.

Why not have a pond of your own?

If you have at least ten acres and a suitable sloping site, you can. Will you love it? "Let me count the ways."

A pond is warm on the surface in the summer but, if it's deep, it's cold three feet below the surface. Are you hot in a July sun? Take a refreshing dip in your pond. Do you like to sail? You can try your knowledge on a pond as small as an acre in area.

Have you tasted rainbow trout? A gourmet's delight! You can grow your own in a spring-fed pond.

Do you like to hear "peepers" in spring, frogs croak, birds sing? Do you like to watch fish jump, swallows dart, ducks swim, deer drink: have your own pond!

Do you like to ice skate, snowmobile? Try it on your pond. A cabin on the shore with a wood cookstove provides warmth and hot chocolate.

Have you lost touch with your children? "Get it together" with an outing any time of the year with your family at your pond. Green grass, shade trees, a "swimming hole". Grandpa digs worms for bait and two little boys squeal with delight when they catch a fish while sitting on the dock under the watchful eyes of their dad.

You go to the "tree farm" and stay overnight in early fall. It begins to rain. Raindrops on the roof follow a chorus by the frogs. What a wonderful sedative. Maybe you'll wake in the early morning to clear skies full of bright stars and a cool breeze, You'll want to get up and rejoice in the world.

Or maybe it's still raining and it's so cozy in the cabin; you look out at the diamond spattered surface of the pond and decide that things are taking care of themselves and you can go back to sleep with the melody of the rain on the roof.

Heiberg Award Nominations Invited

Organizations and individuals are invited to nominate candidates for the award made each year by the New York Forest Owners Association in memory of Svend O. Heiberg. The late Professor Heiberg of the New York State College of Forestry was recognized as a highly talented forester who contributed greatly to the advancement of sound forest practices — especially in New York State.

Candidates should have earned special recognition for significant contributions in forestry and conservation in New York State. Nominations are open and a nominee does not need to be a member of the New York Forest Owners Association.

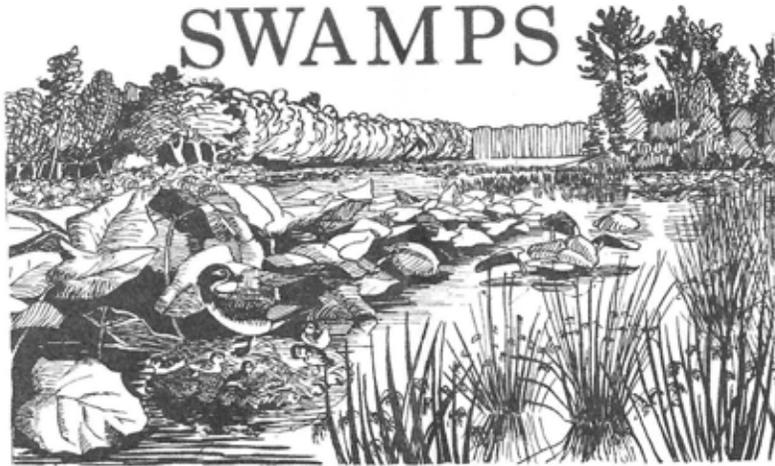
Nominations should reach C. Eugene Farnsworth, Chairman, Heiberg Award Committee, Department of Silviculture and Forest Influences, College of Environmental Science and

Forestry, Syracuse, New York 13210 before January 1, 1977. A biographical sketch of the nominee is required. Selection is made by the New York Forest Owners Association Board of Directors and the award is made at the annual meeting in April.

Past recipients of the award are:

1966: Hardy L. Shirley
1967: David B. Cook
1968: Floyd F. Carlson
1969: F. A. Demeree
1970: No Award
1971: Fred F. Winch
1972: John Stock
1973: Robert M. Ford
1974: C. Eugene Farnsworth
1975: Alex Dickson
1976: Edward W. Littlefield

We always called 'em SWAMPS



but now they're "wetlands" and protected!

Now a year old, the Freshwater Wetlands Act extends state jurisdiction over all freshwater wetlands of 12.4 acres in size or greater. Wetlands less than 12.4 acres in size are also subject to regulations at the discretion of the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation if they are considered to have "unusual local importance."

Farming activities are generally exempted from the regulations. However farmers must still notify DEC of activities to be carried out on wetlands which would otherwise be subject to regulation.

DEC is to identify and map all wetlands subject to regulation. In the meantime, "no person shall conduct, or cause to be conducted, any activity for which a permit is required (under this Act) on any freshwater wetland unless he has obtained a permit."

The Act places emphasis on local rather than State regulation of wetlands. Local governments are given one-year from the effective date of the Act (September 1, 1975) to enact ordinances for the protection of wetlands meeting minimum State requirements. Failure to act within this one-year period automatically transfers this option to the county. The county will have 90 days to decide whether it wishes to enact and administer wetlands ordinances. Failure by the county to act automatically transfers regulatory power to DEC.

Following the completion of wetlands maps DEC shall, upon a showing of "good cause" and a written request from the owner of a wetland to be regulated, delineate more precisely the boundaries of the wetland.

A Freshwater Wetlands Appeals Board is created, to consist of five members. Two members are appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets and two members by the

Department of Environmental Conservation. The fifth member is appointed by the Governor. The Board is to have the power to review any decision or order affecting the regulation of freshwater wetlands by State or local government agencies, upon appeal from those affected.

Regulation of wetlands shall be considered a limitation on use for the purposes of property tax evaluation in the same manner as if an easement or right had been acquired. Assessments shall be based upon the uses remaining to the owner.

On any land that is being developed as a planned unit development under the provisions of applicable ordinances or local laws where freshwater wetlands are to remain as open space, development activities will not despoil the wetland involved.

No regulation shall apply to areas more than one hundred feet from the boundary of a regulated wetland.

Wetlands will be identified according to typical vegetation associated with such areas. Vegetative types to be used for identification of wetlands are: wetland trees (such as willows); wetland shrubs (such as alder); emergent vegetation (such as cattails); rooted floating-leaved vegetation (such as water-lily); free-floating vegetation (such as duckweed); wet meadow vegetation (such as reed canary grass); bog mat vegetation (such as sphagnum moss); submerged vegetation (such as water milfoils); and lands or submerged lands containing remnants of any non-aquatic vegetation that has died because of wet conditions over a sufficiently long period.

Note that counties are being given an option, if local jurisdictions fail to act, to regulate land use, a power formerly reserved in New York State only to towns, villages, and cities.



Join the New York State Forest Owners Association as they tour the forests of Switzerland, Austria, and Bavaria.

ITINERARY

- Day 1 - Flight from N.Y. to Zurich
- Day 2 - Arrive Zurich, Bus to Berne. Day at leisure in Berne.
- Day 3 - Morning tour of Alpine museum. Orientation by Swiss forestry officials. Tour of forestry equipment plant and demonstrations. Evening program with Wood producers Assn. and Hunters Assn.
- Day 4 - Berne via Interlaken to Lucerne. Rest of day and evening at leisure.
- Day 5 - Alpine forestry tour near Lucerne. Rest of day on your own.
- Day 6 - Lucerne via St. Anton to Garmisch. Day at leisure.
- Day 7 - Optional excursion to Zugspitze. Afternoon visits re. Alpine forest mgmt.
- Day 8 - Garmisch via Seefeld to Innsbruck. Afternoon of forestry activities there.
- Day 9 - Morning of free time. Depart for Salzkammergut. evening at leisure.
- Day 10- Forestry activities near Salzburg.
- Day 11- Half day visit to city of Salzburg. Depart for Bad Aibling. evening at leisure.
- Day 12- Visit to farm for discussion of game management. Visit to estate and farm forest management activity.
- Day 13 -Depart for Munich. Day of tours, shopping and fun.
- Day 14 -Optional tour to Bavarian National Forest. Or live it up in Munich.
- Day 15 -Flight to New York.

Length of trip: 15 days, departing Sunday, May 8th, and returning Monday, May 23rd.

Price: \$950.00. Subject to minor change due to changes in international exchange rates (we've tried to anticipate that), and scheduled change in air fare rates.

Price includes air fare, tour bus and escort, double-occupancy room with bath, continental breakfast each day, tips and taxes.

Price does not include lunches, evening meals and related tips, personal activities

Terms: Prices and arrangements are based on minimum of 25 persons. Some reduction or increase in price can be expected with more or less travellers. \$150 down payment due 31st of January, 1977. Balance due March 1, 1977. 90% refunds made up to 30 days before departure for cancellation.

- For Reservations -

Please make all checks payable to: NY Forest Owners Association
 Mail to: Alan K. Knight
 Editor, NY Forest Owner
 526 Anderson Hill Rd.
 R.D.2, Candor, NY
 13743
 Confirmation and regular mailings will follow.

**Come visit
 the forests
 of
 Switzerland,
 Austria, and
 Germany**



Please reserve _____ places for
 (no.)
 the NY Forest Owners European
 tour. I have enclosed a check
 for \$_____ to cover the de-
 posit of \$150 each. I have
 read and understand the con-
 ditions.

Names _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Telephone () _____

NYFOA at Woodsmen's Field Days



Mrs. Kenneth Eberly looks for new members at the New York State Woodsmen's field days in Boonville for an estimated 10,000 people interested in forestry meet on August 21 & 22.

An opportunity at the Woodsmen's field days to learn more about conservation and ecology relating to New York's forests was provided by Dave Taber and the "Wood Utilization Service" exhibit.



Some 3,000 people viewed the New York Forest Owners Association float driven by Ken Eberly at the New York State Woodsmen's field days. The PUG (vehicle handling display) is useful for getting around the woodlot and transporting firewood.



How about State Fair?

In an endeavor to publicize the existence of the New York Forest Owners' Association, the membership committee is considering setting up a display booth at the 1977 State Fair in Syracuse.

What do you members think of this suggestion?

This would be an excellent opportunity to acquaint the woodlot owner of the advantages to be gained by membership in NYFOA.

ONLY if we receive full support for this effort would we be willing to proceed with this project. Plans must be made early.

We would need definite commitments from NYFOA members to staff this booth for a half day each.

Please let me know your reaction to this idea, and advise me if you would be willing and able to participate in staffing the booth.

Send your reply to Kenneth Eberley, 9 Edgewood Drive, Whitesboro, New York 13492.



Alan R. Knight, Editor
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Merry Christmas

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

(Please send to:)

Mrs. Helen Varian, Membership Secretary
204 Varian Rd., Peekskill, N.Y. 10566

I would like to help advance forestry in New York State. I enclose my check payable to the New York Forest Owners Association, Inc.

- () I own ___ acres forest land in _____ County, N.Y.
- () I do not own forest land but I support Association's objectives.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Zip Code _____

ANNUAL DUES

(Please underline choice)

- Junior Member (Under 21)\$1
- Regular Member\$7
- Family Membership.....\$12
(husband, wife)
- Contributing Member \$12 – \$29
- Sustaining Member \$30 – \$99
- Supporting Member..... \$100 – \$499
- Sponsoring Member.....\$500 and up