

The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

May/June 2008



Member Profile: Dan Anderson

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The New York Forest Owner

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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

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www.nyfoa.org

COVER: Dan Anderson and his wife, Shauna, on their hardwood lot in Chautauqua County. For member profile, turn to page 21. Photo courtesy of Dan Anderson.

From The Executive Director

This edition of *The Forest Owner* is one of our most exciting ever. Why? We are featuring two member-contributed articles and a member's letter to the editor. It's great to hear our members' voices. Please keep your stories and comments coming in. Sharing information with our fellow forest owners is what makes NYFOA the great organization that it is.

Liana and I were delighted with the response to the member survey on the two-edition free trial of *Northern Woodlands* magazine. We received over 500 replies. There was overwhelming support for offering an on-going reduced-rate subscription to the magazine as a benefit of NYFOA



membership. The regular one-year subscription price of the publication is \$21.50, but NYFOA members will be able to subscribe for just \$15. Watch your mail for details;

and reply by June 1 to be sure that you don't miss an issue.

By the time you read this, we hope to have our new Podcast series ready for download from www.nyfoa.org. Thanks to our former Executive Director Dan Palm for his wonderful introductions on each of the 12 segments; and thanks to all of our members and partners who contributed their expertise and stories to make this series first-rate. NYFOA produced these Podcasts in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension with support from the NY Department of Environmental Conservation and the USDA Forest Service - State and Private Forestry Division.

It was great to meet NYFOA members and northern NY forestry partners in Lake Placid April 1, at a NYFOA-sponsored roundtable discussion on recreation on

forested lands in the Northern Forest. Learn more about the research that was presented at this event on the project website www.privatelandaccess.org. Thanks to NYFOA board members Bill LaPoint and John Sullivan for helping to spread the word about the event; and to NYS Maple Producers Association member Mike Farrell, who is

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

the manager of the Cornell Uihlein Maple Center in Lake Placid, for an interesting post-roundtable tour of the maple facility and its carefully managed sugarbush.

I also enjoyed greeting NYFOA members and others in Ithaca on April 12 at a workshop on agroforestry opportunities for landowners. NYFOA board member Marilyn Wyman, who is the director of the Cornell Agroforestry Resource Center in Acra, was one of the presenters and event organizers.

Several upcoming events include a SAC-sponsored May 3 workshop in Lake George - Putting Your Woods to Work: Reduce Taxes, Save Energy, Enjoy More; and a series of new Master Forest Owner volunteer and refresher workshops at several locations around the state June - September. I'm looking forward to meeting more NYFOA members and recruiting new members at these programs. Find links to these events and learn about other things happening around the state this spring on www.nyfoa.org.

-Mary Jeanne Packer
Executive Director

Join!

NYFOA is a not-for-profit group of NY State landowners promoting stewardship of private forests for the benefit of current and future generations. Through local chapters and statewide activities, NYFOA helps woodland owners to become responsible stewards and interested publics to appreciate the importance of New York's forests.

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

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The mission of the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) is to promote sustainable forestry practices and improved stewardship on privately owned woodlands in New York State. NYFOA is a not-for-profit group of landowners and others interested in the thoughtful management of private forests for the benefit of current and future generations.



NYFOA sponsored Stakeholders' Roundtable Discussion on Recreation on Private Land at Heaven Hill Farm in Lake Placid April 1. NYFOA partnered with the Northeastern States Research Cooperative (NSRC) over the last two years to involve landowners in NYS with this research. NSRC researcher at left of photo is Dr. Walt Kuentzel, Associate Professor, University of Vermont. More than 20 participants included directors of northern NY Resource Conservation and Development Councils, NYFOA members, Cornell Cooperative Extension representatives, and regional tourism development leaders.

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NAC Chairman Bill LaPoint holds class with about 50+ 5th & 6th graders at Parishville-Hopkinton Central School. Bill handed out placemats with tree and forestry information on them. The Teachers were Ms Charlebois, Ms Blevins and the Principal is Ms Claus. It was very rewarding and the student participation was outstanding. Bill graduated from this school in 1958. Photo: Bill LaPoint

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Members Voices

Why are we always talking about government?

JOHN SULLIVAN

David Koon represents communities east of Rochester in the NY State Assembly, including the town of Webster, on Lake



John Sullivan

Ontario. He is no stranger to the damage that can be done by invasive species; his constituents remind him almost daily of the havoc wrought by zebra mussels, Asian milfoil and a host of other plants and critters. It would not have surprised me if he had lapsed into an expression of bored tolerance when I launched my speech about the dangers to the New York economy from invasive insects.

But he was all ears—and eyes wide with surprise—when I reached the part about how just one pest, the Asian long-horned beetle, could wipe out the state's sugar maples and with it hundreds of millions of dollars of logging, manufacturing, sugaring and tourism income. (Think about it: leaf peepers without maple leaves?) Mission accomplished: one more legislator educated.

The occasion was Forestry Awareness Day (March 10) and the purpose was to alert Koon and his colleagues to our need for their action on several issues of importance to forest own-

ers. We were there—several dozen foresters, landowners, sawmill owners and paper company representatives—because, like it or not, our future as forest owners depends in no small way on what Albany does.

We need our government's help to combat the long-horned beetle, the hemlock wooly adelgid, the emerald ash borer and the sirex wood wasp. Without it, those four bugs could wipe out our sugar maples, decimate pine stands, eliminate ash and nearly destroy Eastern hemlock in the state.

We need government's help to reduce the impact of high property taxes. Nobody else can do it. We need help finding new markets for low-grade trees to replace the fast-dwindling paper industry.

NYFOA was there because we won't get that help unless legislators and government agencies understand the need, unless someone is around to remind them and—when they introduce a program or change a law—to provide feedback about what works and what doesn't.

I raise all this because from time to time a member asks, "Why are we always talking about government? Aren't we spending too much time lobbying in Albany? Shouldn't we get back to basics?"

These are good questions, and part of the larger questions that NYFOA constantly asks itself: What are the basics? Are we doing what New York forest owners need? To that question, we can only answer, we hope so, and keep on trying.

Of course, forest owners need more than someone to represent them in Albany. We need technical advice. Information about log prices. On-the-ground opportunities to see how others manage their woods. Demonstrations of equipment and procedures. Meeting other landowners

to compare notes or commiserate. We need encouragement—sometimes a lot of that. We need to learn about ways to save, help weighing the pros and cons of entering the 480-A program or giving a conservation easement.

These and other needs are met through a sometimes-complex network of state and local actions. Chapters conduct woodwalks and deliver newsletters—both excellent ways to learn about what's happening and why, and to obtain practical knowledge. They sponsor landowner workshops; several are planned in various parts of the state this year. Many members are also Master Forest Owners, and they do yeoman work at outreach to landowners in every corner of the state. At the state level, *The Forest Owner* is the principal member-service tool, and each issue is packed with information, debate and advice that supplements that found at the local level. And at both state and local levels elected leaders and members try to reach out to government and community leaders to express all landowners' views and needs.

Is this a perfect organization? No, not any more than this is a perfect world. But we're trying. And we are listening. 🌲

John Sullivan, the newly elected NYFOA Secretary, owns and manages the FSC-certified, 340-acre Kipp Mountain Tree Farm in Warren County. He was recognized as the 2006 New York Tree Farmer of the Year.

The Healthy Forests Agenda

A four-point program to maintain the size, health and productivity of New York's forests.

New York's 18.5 million acres of forest land are in crisis, their future imperiled by economic and ecological threats. Traditional markets are changing; subdivision and development threaten wildlife, watersheds, clean air, recreational values and economic productivity; invasive pests endanger valuable species. These difficulties threaten our forests' ability to respond to modern needs for new energy sources and relief from the effects of climate change. They also are damaging the economic sustainability and health of many rural communities. Therefore, the Council of Forest Resource Organizations developed four executive and legislative actions that they urge New York State to promptly address. A full copy of this document is available online at www.nyfoa.org.



NYFOA leaders and partners from the Council of Forest Resource Organizations participating in Forestry Awareness Day meeting with Sen. Catharine Young in her Albany office March 10.

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

Question:

We were advised to use latex paint, rather than oil-based paint, when mark hiking trails and boundaries on our property to avoid harming the trees. Do oil-based paints harm trees? Also, I've heard that some states allow owners to "post" their boundary using a specific color of paint.

Answer:

First, we should differentiate between tree paints and household paints. Tree marking paints are formulated to stick to the surface of the tree's bark rather than being absorbed into the bark. Also, tree marking paints will retain their visibility for longer periods of time, on bark, under harsh weather conditions. Household paints don't have these same characteristics.

Forestry professionals and practitioners will often use one of two types of tree paint. One, simply called tree marking paint, has a low viscosity and can be sprayed through a trigger activated paint gun or backpack gun. Tree marking paint can also be purchased in aerosol cans. Tree marking paint is usually used to mark trees that are being included as part of a timber sale or marked for removal in for-

est improvement cutting. The other type of tree paint is called "boundary paint". Boundary paint is used to mark the boundaries of properties either with or without a blaze into the bark. Boundary paints are often thick and applied with a paint brush.

Tree marking paints can be purchased as either water-based, also called latex paints, or oil-based, also called solvent-based. One difference between these paints is in their longevity. The oil-based paints will last,

according to manufacturer's claims for three to five years, whereas the latex tree marking paint may last for 1 to 3 years. The boundary paints are typically oil-based because most owners desire a long-lived paint on the boundary to minimize maintenance time and cost. The second difference between water and oil-based paints is in the clean up of equipment. Water-based paints can use water for clean-up (before drying occurs) and oil-based paints need a solvent such as mineral spirits or acetone.

I have not heard of tree marking paint or boundary paint associated with any damage to trees. I contacted a forestry company that sells tree paints with this question and the technical specialist concurred that he has not heard of any tree paint causing harm to trees. Harm to trees from tree paint seems unlikely when these products are formulated to remain on the surface of the bark and not absorb into the bark. The damage to a tree associated with this process is more likely associated with the owner who decides to blaze property lines or corners. Often and appropriately, many owners will blaze the trees on or near the property line using standard surveying protocols. The blaze creates a wound through the bark into the



Property surveys may only locate corners and not lines. A professional land surveyor should be consulted to help with locating a boundary line that has not been previously marked.



Blazes on boundary line trees should be at approximately eye level. The blaze is made with a small hand ax or hatchet and removes the bark for hand-sized or slightly larger patch. Don't blaze high value trees. Use correct survey protocols for selection of trees and placement of the blaze. Avoid spring time for blazing and painting so weeping sap doesn't flush away the paint.

wood. Although wounded, deliberate and sensible blazing has little to no effect on the overall longevity of the tree. Boundary paint is then applied to the blaze. The advantage of blazing is that the wound is evident for several years longer than even the best paints are visible. Not all trees on a line need be blazed, especially high-value trees. Of course you will build better neighbor relations if you speak with the adjoining landowner before blazing trees and if you work with a professional surveyor to avoid blazing a line that doesn't really exist.

A word or two of caution and strategy is appropriate when applying these paints. First, most tree paints no longer include lead, but check with the manufacturer. Second, I have not been able to apply tree marking or boundary paint without getting spotted to greater or lesser degrees. Of course wear old clothes, but also consider putting a heavy coat of boot grease or waterproofing on your leather boots and the car windshield treatment that allows rain to more

easily blow from your windshield. Finally, follow label instructions for disposal of any unused paint, or contact your local office of Cornell Cooperative Extension for information on how to dispose of potentially hazardous materials.

In Maryland, state law allows a forest owner to legally post their property using a specific sized rectangle of blue paint. Thus, a blue paint blaze of minimum size is the legal equivalent of a posted sign in NY. I spoke with my counterpart in MD, and he described the great benefits this type of posting provided to landowners. He encouraged NY forest owners to advance this with elected officials. 🏠

Peter J. Smallidge, NYS Extension Forester and Director, Arnot Teaching and Research Forest, Cornell University Cooperative Extension, Ithaca, NY. pjs23@cornell.edu; 116 Fernow Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853.

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New York State Tree Farm News

ERIN O'NEILL

Well, we've made it through another winter! Just like you, this is the time of year when your trees and wild animals are stretching their limbs and looking for food.

Just like you, they are surveying the scene; inspecting the damages and looking at the changes the winter has left us with. Just like them...it's time for us to adjust old plans and make new ones.

Last issue, I spoke about Tree Farm's main objective, to put more good forestry on more acres. As Tree Farm moves forward in our efforts to become SFI certified, Management Plans are a requirement for joining the program. This has been a good way for us to really help you, the Family Forest owner, manage in a sustainable manner and according to your goals and objectives. By creating a Management Plan, you're better able to share with us what you want to do. Don't



let this scare you, all it means is that you have a vision and a working plan for fulfilling that vision. Management Plans are dynamic and can be, and need to be, reviewed and adjusted as your forest and your circumstances change.

Keep in mind that each Family Forest will have a unique Management Plan as no two forest owners have the same goals or timelines. All Management Plans, however, will have similar characteristics. Here are some things to keep in mind. They begin with stating each landowner by their legal name and contact information as well as a location and description of the property. This should include anything you physical data like soils and wetlands and any features you're familiar with like fences, roads or power lines. Also, if you know any history about the property it can go in this section.

The next section will be where you define your goals and objectives. Some people have more than one thing to put here, and sometimes you're really concen-

trating on one thing. For example, maybe you own 50 acres and the only thing you care about is making sure you have enough firewood each winter; or, you know you have some really nice Oak trees and you want to manage them for high quality timber, but also for deer populations and hunting. There are tons of possibilities and no wrong answers.

Then you start to describe a plan for managing the forest to get the best results toward your goals. You'll describe harvest treatments and any planting you intend to do. You also want to list any current values you'll want to protect or are legally bound to protect during your operations, like wetlands or endangered species.

Finally you'll come up with a timetable for implementation with room for recording notes and dates of actual operations. Most Management Plans are for 10 years with review about every 3-5 years, but if you wish, you can review it more or less often. And remember, a Tree Farm representative is only a phone call (1-800-836-3566) away or e-mail (nytreefarm@hotmail.com) away if you need help.

I wish you a wonderful summer filled with Wood, Wildlife, Water and Recreation! 

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



LAW FIRM EXPERIENCED IN ISSUES
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AND NATURAL RESOURCE LAW:

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Kid's Corner

REBECCA HARGRAVE



Paul & Lillian Steinfeld submitted this photo. It is of their great-grandchildren, Gilad and Yaara Gal who live in Israel but visit the family tree-farm often with their parents. The 200-acre certified tree farm in Halcott Center, Greene County, has been in the family since 1958. It is managed now in accordance with plans supervised by the Watershed Agricultural Council.

Do you have a photo of you and your kids or grandkids in your forest? If so, *The New York Forest Owner* would like to see it! Send an electronic or hard copy to *Forest Owner* editor, MaryBeth Malmsheimer, (address on page 22) and it may end up on this page!

Growing Your Own Mushrooms

Even if you don't like mushrooms on your pizza, they can be a lot of fun to grow!

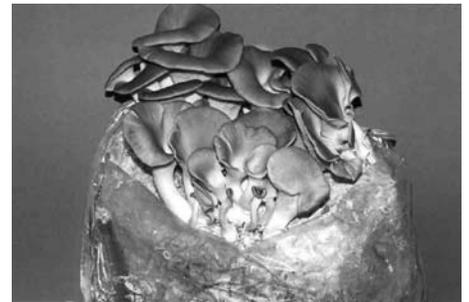
Mushrooms are the fruit of fungus, and play an important role in our forests. Fungi are decomposers, they send their roots (mycorrhizae) deep into once living things and break them down. Different mushrooms live on different types of organic matter including trees, compost, and straw. Many tree mushrooms feed on dead and dying trees, but some can actually kill trees. The part fungus plays in death and decomposition helps to thin out weak trees and return nutrients locked up in their wood to the soil.

Mushrooms of course grow on their own in the woods, and some of those mushrooms are very tasty! Some of these edible wild mushrooms can actually be grown, just like a vegetable. If

you really want to get serious you can grow them in logs outside, which once they start to grow (1-2 years) will fruit for 4 to 6 years. But, to start off, you can try growing mushrooms in an indoor kit which will fruit in just a few weeks!

Indoor mushroom kits can be ordered from mushroom supply or garden supply company. Popular kits are made from sawdust or straw, but you can also get compost and toilet paper roll kits! Also different varieties of mushrooms are available, including: oyster, shiitake, and lion's mane. You can also get kits to grow outside in your garden or yard.

Not only is it fun to watch and then eat your mushroom kit, you can turn it into a Science Fair, County Fair, or just for fun project. Document what you did to start the kit, following the manufacturer's instructions, and then take pictures along the way of the kit's growth, the



Indoor mushroom kit.

mushrooms fruiting, and of you harvesting, preparing and eating your home grown wild mushrooms!

This summer and fall, after you've grown your wild mushrooms in a kit, go out and see if you can find any of them growing in the woods. Also, take a look at all the different types of mushrooms growing in your forest. Some come from the roots, some from the trunk and branches, some on decaying logs and others on live trees. Also pay attention the many different colors and textures of the 100's of mushrooms you'll find.

Remember; if you're going wild mushroom hunting take a knowledgeable adult with you, since many are poisonous! And, we always recommend cooking your kit and wild mushrooms before eating.

Enjoy the fruiting! 🍄

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



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Wild Things in Your Woodlands

KRISTI SULLIVAN

SCARLET TANAGER (*PIRANGA OLIVACEA*)



The scarlet tanager is a medium-sized songbird, about 7 inches in size. Strikingly beautiful, the male tanager is a brilliant scarlet red with solid black wings and tail. In contrast, the female tanager is olive green on the back, with a yellow underside and dark brown or black wings.

As warmer weather arrives and the trees begin to leaf out, many songbirds make their annual trek to the northeast to nest and raise their young. Having spent the winter in montane evergreen forests from Panama to northwestern South America, the tanager seeks out mature deciduous and mixed forests upon its return. The male tanager arrives first to set up territory.

This beautiful bird can be seen throughout New York State, especially in large forested areas. However, because tanagers spend most of their time high in the forest canopy, they can be difficult to pick out, despite the male's vividly colored plumage. A telltale sign of the tanager's presence is its hoarse, robin-like song and a characteristic call of "chip-bang", emanating from high in the treetops.

Tanagers usually nest in deciduous trees, building a shallow cup of twigs, grass, bark, and rootlets about 20 to 30 feet above ground. The nest is constructed on a horizontal limb, about halfway out from the trunk of the tree, and usually at the junction of two or more smaller branches. The tanager lays 1-6 eggs (usu-

ally 4) that are greenish blue in color with fine reddish specks. Eggs are incubated for 13-14 days prior to hatching. After hatching, the male helps to feed the young. To find enough food and successfully raise a brood of young, a pair of tanagers needs at least four wooded acres, with eight the optimum.

The tanager forages mostly by gleaning or hawking flying insects. When a bird is gleaning, it catches insects and other invertebrates by plucking them from within foliage, or sometimes from the ground. In contrast, a bird that is hawking will watch for prey from a suitable perch. When it spies potential prey, the bird will chase it and catch it in its beak, then return to the perch. In addition to invertebrates, the tanager also eats buds and fruits.

Hawks and owls prey upon adult tanagers. Squirrels, crows, and blue jays will raid tanager nests, feeding on the eggs and young. Brown-headed cowbirds parasitize more than half of all tanager nests in some areas, particularly where the forest has been fragmented by development. Cowbirds are brood parasites that lay their eggs in the nests of other birds. When parasitism occurs, the adult

host birds often raise the larger, more demanding cowbird young at the expense of their own.

The best way to provide habitat for the scarlet tanager is to maintain large, contiguous areas of forest habitat, and encourage wooded connections between smaller patches of forest. Encourage a healthy forest canopy with small gaps, allowing the sun to reach the forest floor, and promoting understory growth. This will create a forest with many layers of vegetation at different heights, which in turn provides feeding and nesting sites and abundant food. Retain a variety of tree species and encourage individual tree health to help create a healthy, resilient forest and benefit the scarlet tanager as well as other wildlife. 

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

NYFOA SAFETY TIP

Limbing Safety

Once the tree has been safely felled, the process of limbing can begin. The following precautions will help reduce hazards:

- Wear the proper personal protective equipment - hard hat, chaps, eye/face protection, hearing protection, footwear and hand protection.
- Limbing should not occur within two tree lengths of other fellers and should not be directly uphill of others.
- LOOK UP. Every year people are injured by "widow makers" during the limbing process.
- Begin limbing at the butt of the tree. If on steep hillside, stay on the uphill side of the tree.
- Springpole (branches caught under the weight of the tree) should be cut by "shaving" the underside of the arch to reduce tension on the branch. Stand as far away as possible to avoid being hit.
- Chainsaw kickback is the number one cause of injury while delimiting a tree. Do not delimb with the tip of the saw. Large limbs can bind the saw and create kickback. Keep the saw running at full throttle.
- Cut supporting limbs last and be careful that the tree does not roll on you.

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

NYFOA Scholarship Winner

René Germain (left) NYFOA board member and Professor at SUNY ESF with NYFOA Scholarship winner, Ian Freeburg from Bloomington, NY. Ian is graduating with a BS in Forest Resources Management in the spring 2008. This summer he will be working as a lumberjack in Alaska. Thereafter, he will further his interest in forestry by going to Africa with the Peace Corps to do forest regeneration and agroforestry work. The award money will contribute to his travels and living expenses as a Peace Corps volunteer.



Brett Chedzoy, a CCE Natural Resources Educator (and MFO regional coordinator), speaks with a group of private and DEC foresters at a April 11 workshop held at Arnot Forest, VanEtten. NYFOA Pres. Dan Cleveland attended the session to talk with foresters about benefits of NYFOA membership and to ask their help in reaching out to landowners to grow NYFOA's membership.

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NYFOA AWARDS

Master Forest Owner Program Director Honored with Heiberg Award



Dan Cleveland (left) presents the Heiberg Memorial Award from NYFOA to Gary Goff.

Gary Goff, director of the Master Forest Owner program of Cornell Cooperative Extension, has been presented the Heiberg Memorial Award for 2008 by the New York Forest Owners Association.

Goff led the design of the program 18 years ago, based on existing programs in Connecticut and Massachusetts, and continues to serve as its director. He has been with Cornell Cooperative Extension since 1980, with areas of expertise in forest management, silviculture, wildlife habitat enhancement and Extension education.

"I was surprised and honored and grateful," Goff said about receiving the prestigious award at the New York Forest Owners Association annual meeting held February 23 in Syracuse.

The Heiberg Award recognizes outstanding contributions to forestry and conservation in New York. It is named in memory of Svend O. Heiberg, a world-renowned professor at

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and one of the original founders of the New York Forest Owners Association in 1962.

The Master Forest Owner, MFO, program trains private individuals in forest stewardship, complementing their own experiences as forest owners. These volunteers then work with other landowners to discuss forestry issues and management objectives. They are not foresters, but they know who to recommend and where to find information, Goff said.

In New York, the program "is a perfect blend of focus on wildlife and forestry," Goff said.

Goff credited the Forest Owners Association for making the MFO program a "powerful and hugely successful" effort in good forest stewardship. The Association's most important support is encouraging its members to become MFOs, Goff said.

The Association's involvement goes back to the beginning of the MFO program and then-Association President John Marchant.

"He prompted me to put together a committee and design the program," Goff said. "He was the sparkplug behind the initiation of the program."

Additional sponsors of the MFO program are the USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry, the Ruffed Grouse Society, the Renewable Resources Extension Program, and the Robert H. Wentorf Foundation Inc.,

in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Lands and Forests and Cornell Cooperative Extension. ▲

Heiberg Award Recipients

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

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DEC State Forests are managed for multiple public benefits including wildlife, recreation, water quality, and timber resources. Photo: Melody Wolcott

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

In January 2008 the Department's Bureau of State Land Management achieved SFI certification. State Forests throughout New York have earned the status as "green certified" by SFI's internationally recognized standards, proving to the public they are managed with the highest sustainability requirements few other forests can claim.

This is quite an achievement when you consider our start. In 1928 the New York State Legislature authorized the then Conservation Department to buy marginal and abandoned farmland in order to restore these lands to timber production. After State acquisition, open areas were soon planted to spruce, pine and other tree species. Over 780,000 acres were eventually purchased under this "reforestation program." Today, our foresters continue this tradition of managing State Forest for a multitude of benefits, including the harvesting of some of the best timber in New York State.

To learn more about the Department's State Forest program, please go to our web site: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/40672.html>. For more information about the Departments SFI program, please call our Green Certification Coordinator, Justin Perry, at (518) 402-9428 or by e-mail at japerry@gw.dec.state.ny.us.



The True Value of Low Value Wood

TONY NEKUT

Low value trees present a problem to forest owners who are trying to maintain the health and vigor of their forests. After paying the forester and logger, the owner might net a few dollars per ton or even end up out of pocket after a thinning operation. Although thinning should improve the long term value of the remaining trees and promote natural regeneration, it also carries the risk, if done carelessly, of high value stem damage, soil erosion or compaction, and habitat destruction. Given the circumstances, it's no surprise that forest owners are not highly motivated.

Now consider the heating value of wood in comparison to fuel oil. Burning a gallon of fuel oil, which retails for about \$4 this year, yields about 140,000 BTU. Burning a pound of any species of dry wood yields about 8000 BTU, so, on a cost/BTU basis, wood retailing at \$450/ton is competitive with fuel oil. But current market prices for low grade wood, delivered to a pulp mill or particle board factory, are only about 10 percent of this.

In order to realize the true value of low grade wood as a heating fuel, it will be necessary to raise public awareness about the benefits of modern wood heating; now is an ideal time to begin

this process. Rising atmospheric carbon dioxide levels from human fossil fuel consumption are causing global climate change. At the same time, demand for petroleum is outstripping supply; a situation that promises to become progressively worse in the future. Locally sourced forest biomass can replace fossil fuels used for space heating. Biomass energy can be carbon neutral or even carbon negative if some of the residual carbon content of the wood is returned to the forest soil. Properly managed woodlots can store more carbon and potentially generate added income from carbon offset credits. As a rough rule of thumb, it takes about 5 acres of forest to sustainably heat an average household. Upstate forests have the potential, when utilized on a regional basis, to displace a large portion of the fossil fuels used for space heating.

I am participating in a NYSEDA funded project aimed at raising public awareness about modern wood heating. We will install a 400,000 BTU/hour wood chip fired boiler at the Cayuga Nature Center, located near Ithaca, NY. The boiler, which is manufactured in Europe, has fully automated fuel feed and ash removal, and sophisticated combustion controls that enable very high efficiencies and very low emis-

sions. Visitors will have a chance to see first hand how this technology works and how it might apply to heating their homes or businesses. The forests at the Nature Center will also be used to demonstrate biomass production with sustainable forestry practices. The practices of forest biomass energy utilization are well developed in many European countries. EU wide standards for wood fuel specifications and boiler performance have been established. We intend our project to be a step in the process of adapting the European model to fit domestic conditions. I will be traveling to Austria in June as part of a group to learn more about their forest biomass infrastructure.

Assuming that demand for low grade fuel wood begins to grow, there are a number of ways forest owners may be able to benefit. It should be remembered that private forest owners, as a group, essentially control this resource. Forest biomass fuel is best utilized near its source. This implies that forest landowners in a locality can maximize their benefit from this opportunity by pooling their forest land and resources in a cooperative ("coop"). A coop comprising several thousand acres is in a better position to negotiate contracts with foresters, loggers, and mills. In fact, at some scale it becomes feasible and



Removing trees with defects, such as sugar maple borer (left) or fungal cankers (right) will improve the overall health and vigor of the forest. Cutting these defective and low vigor trees releases neighboring trees from competition. Removing the trees from the forest requires care to avoid damage to the higher quality residual trees.

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Picture of wood chips, which show the final product.

desirable for the coop to maintain their own staff, equipment, and facilities to best benefit the coop member/owners. For example, the coop can add value to wood fuel by offering it in various forms (cordwood, chips, pellets, etc.) and delivering it directly to customers. There are a number of examples of successful forest owner coops around the country and, to an even greater extent, in Europe. To my knowledge, there are no forest owner coops in the US that have biomass production as a major part of their business plan.

There will likely also be opportunities for forest owners to benefit even if they do not form a coop. In the event of wood fuel demand growth, astute foresters, loggers, or other entrepreneurs will take the initiative to bid for low grade wood at prices that will adequately motivate an owner to consider a low grade harvest.

If private forests transition to a higher level of utilization, proactive owners will need to thoroughly understand the environmental impact their management practices. At minimum, long term sustainability demands that re-growth balances harvesting, that soil quality and nutrient levels are maintained, and that there is ecological stability. I believe that there is opportunity here to greatly improve the health of our forests by removing weak and disease prone trees. Soil quality can be maintained or improved by retaining tops, returning ash and biochar to the forest floor, and using low impact harvesting methods. Best practices

will evolve as the utilization transition progresses.

I am interested in forming a co-op to benefit Ithaca area forest owners and the local community. More details can be found at www.ithacawoodheat.org. If you are a forest owner and are interested in meeting with other owners to discuss the co-op idea, please call me at 607-3420762 or email me at tony@ithacawoodheat.org.

Tony Nekut is a member of the SFL Chapter and resides in Ithaca, NY.

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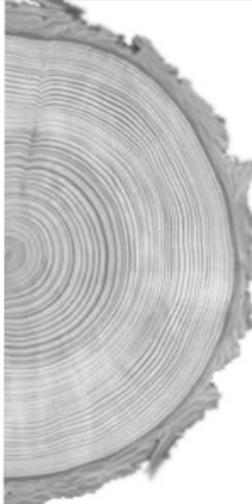
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Blue Stain – A Source of Degrade in Pine Lumber

DOUGLAS C. ALLEN

Blue stains are a type of sapstain caused by fungi that obtain their nutrition from carbohydrates stored in certain sapwood cells of coniferous wood. Unlike decay fungi, they do not decompose the structural components of wood; like cellulose, hemi-cellulose and lignin. Forest owners in the northeastern United States generally associate blue stain with white pine lumber. This discoloration can be a problem throughout North America wherever wood products are made from needle bearing trees.

The problem

Dark blue to blackish areas appear on the ends of infested logs (Fig. 1) and on the surface of lumber made from wood inhabited by a blue stain fungus. Spores of the fungus are carried by wood-boring insects and bark beetles that emerge from stained material and then infest weakened or injured standing trees, or logs that are stored or “decked” for a period of time, either at landings or in mill yards (Fig. 2). The rapidity with which a log becomes infected is closely

related to the activity patterns of these insects. The growth of the fungus depends mainly on adequate moisture and temperature; the warmer the weather, the more quickly the fungus spreads throughout the sapwood.

Once wood is discolored by a sapstain, the wood’s normal color can not be restored. The bending and compression strength of blue-stained wood is similar to that of normal wood, but toughness may be significantly lowered in heavily stained material. Probably the most important effect, however, is the fact that stained sections of lumber are more permeable to liquids compared to unstained areas, which makes it difficult to obtain an even finish on the final product.

Blue stain and beetle relations

Like many fungi, blue stain is able to spread via spores produced in infested material. These spores are sticky and, though they may be moved by air currents, attachment to wood-inhabiting insects is their principle mode of dispersal. The major vectors in the northeast

are wood borers called sawyer beetles (Fig. 3) and a variety of bark beetles. The latter live in a mutually dependent symbiotic relation with the blue stain fungus (*symbiosis* is defined as the living together of different species. In this case, the symbiotic relation is referred to as *mutualism* because both organisms benefit). Sawyer beetles and many bark beetles are incidental spore carriers; that is, spore transportation occurs only when spores adhere to the insect’s body and detach when the insect invades a log or weakened tree. Many species of bark beetle, however, are able to store fungal spores in specialized structures called *mycangia* (my-can-gee-ah). The latter are tube- or sac-like invaginations of the insect’s cuticle (“skin”). Other bark beetles may lack mycangia, but they are able to transport spores of the fungus in their gut. These spores pass through the gut undigested and inoculate new galleries (Fig. 4) when they are excreted with waste products.

When certain pine bark beetles infest freshly cut logs or weakened trees, they purposely inoculate the stem or branches of the host with spores of a blue stain fungus. Following spore germination, the fungus grows by producing hyphae (*high-fee*; microscopic, filamentous, thread-like growth structures; a collection of hyphae form a mycelium, *my-seal-ee-um*) that eventually plug the water conducting tissues in the sapwood which, in turn, makes it difficult for



Figure 1. Cross section of a pine log showing sapwood darkened by a blue stain.



Figure 2. These logs were left on a deck too long and are heavily infested with sawyer beetles. The piles of wood chips are made by beetle larvae excavating galleries in the sapwood.

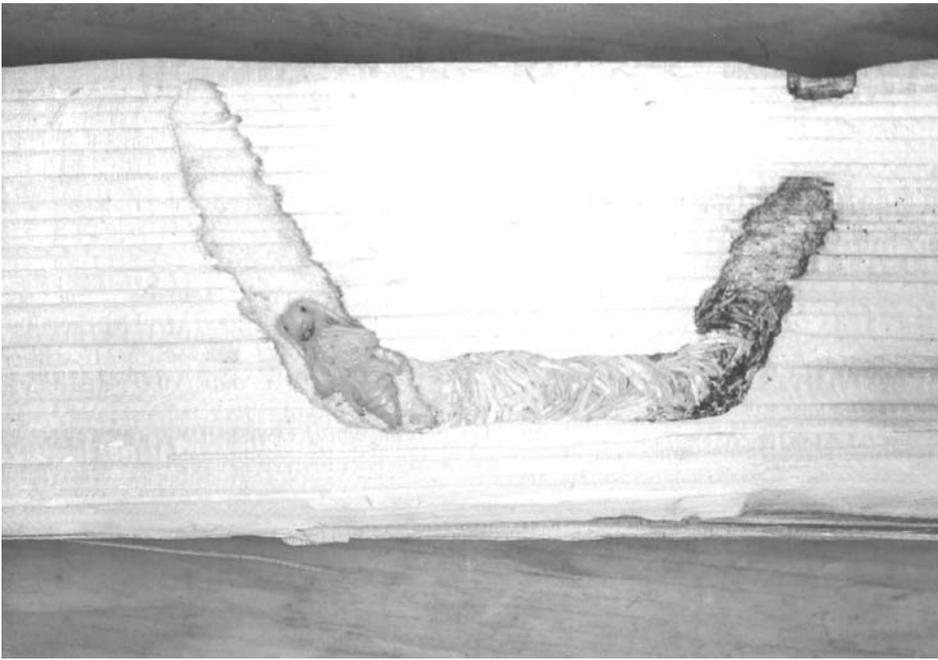


Figure 3. A completely excavated gallery where the sawyer beetle overwinters. Note the dark blue stain on the right just below the entrance hole and to the right of the gallery.

the tree to mobilize resin (i.e., pitch). Resin is the major defensive mechanism used by pines to defend against these insects. Without the help of the fungus a bark beetle would be hard put to successfully invade its host. Pigments in hyphae give sapstain its characteristic color.

Both organisms (fungus + beetle) benefit from this relationship. Beetles

assist in the dispersal of the fungus from host to host and the fungus, in turn, debilitates the host's defenses against beetle attack by inhibiting resin flow. Additionally, the fungus may provide an important source of nutrition for the immature stages of bark beetles.

Preventing blue stain

The fungus grows most rapidly in freshly cut logs and lumber made from infected logs where there is adequate oxygen, moisture and warm temperatures. These conditions also favor the development and movement of wood inhabiting insects. The following tactics can be used to greatly reduce damage to pine logs and lumber caused by insects and minimize degrade associated with the sapstain fungus:

- For relatively small operators, such as most forest owners, processing logs as soon as possible is the best preventative measure, both to minimize the aesthetic degrade linked with blue stain and the physical damage associated with large wood boring insects.
- Ponds have been used by large operators to store freshly cut pine logs. The absence of a suitable oxygen supply under these conditions



Figure 4. The bark has been removed to expose a Y-shaped bark beetle gallery on the surface of the sapwood. This pattern is typical for a species commonly found in white pine. This is where fungal spores are deposited.

greatly minimizes the opportunity for the fungus to become established, and water inhibits insect attack as well.

- When possible, freshly cut lumber should be kiln dried rapidly to or just below the fiber saturation point, generally around 26 to 30 percent, to prevent growth of the fungus. Optimal moisture content for blue stain fungi is between 30-40%. If a kiln is not available, the next best option is thorough air drying. Proper piling and separation of green lumber with stickers and keeping piles narrow and well off the ground will facilitate air movement between and around boards.
- Cutting pine during the winter at a time when wood boring insects and the fungus generally are not active and then processing logs by early summer can greatly reduce the chance of blue stain. 🌲

This is the 93rd in the series of articles contributed by Dr. Allen, Professor of Entomology at SUNY-ESF. It is possible to download this collection from the NYS DEC Web page at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/31301.html>.

New York State Maple

- The production of maple syrup, and associated value-added products, is an important agricultural industry in New York State.
- Maple production contributes to local rural economies and provides supplemental income to farmers and forest land owners. In 2005, there were 1,485 producers with 100 or more taps.
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

[Please Note: The following letter was edited to adhere to space constraints]

Dear Mary Jeanne Packer:

Thanks for the courtesy of granting NYFOA members the opportunity of registering their views concerning *Northern Woodlands* magazine. I am very pleased with the publication and enjoy it immensely

However in quite another matter I wish to register my concern over a series of articles which appeared in three consecutive issues of *The New York Forest Owner* concerning the marketing of so called "carbon credits" as a means of mitigating the proliferation of greenhouse gases and as a source of income for private forest owners.

The authors of these three articles obviously possess considerable expertise on the subject and no doubt constitute a great asset to the designs of their employer for diversification within the forest management industry. However, one might still question the likelihood of many NYFOA members having the interest or ability to participate in a program which would compel them to jump through qualifying hoops both onerous and costly.

The carbon credits arena is seemingly more applicable to the large owners of the industry rather than small forest land holdings typical of NYFOA members. Clearly, one might hope that a more reasonable and just means be

devised, to enable society at large to fulfill its indebtedness to forest owners who do the right thing for the good of all.

Unfortunately, government, the marketplace and too large a segment of the population view forests as a commodity to be developed and traded as fodder for the swollen appetite of our rapacious, self serving economy. We, New York forest owners, know better.

I am anxious, however, that there be more dialogue about these matters and more appropriate education: of we forest owners, concerning our options and responsibilities and the general public as to their role as beneficiaries of all the effort and expenditures involved in nurturing healthy forests.

—John Mahardy
Cleveland, NY

[Editor's Response: The article in question was actually one lengthy article, split for ease of publishing. The length of the article implies the complexity of carbon sequestration and related markets. Carbon credits is an emerging issue that may gain in relevance to forest owners of various sized properties. Forest owners and NYFOA members who are not interested in pursuing carbon credits do make important ecological and economic contributions to the greater good of society. Articles in the current and future issues of this magazine describe additional opportunities, values, and benefits to owners to practice good forestry.]

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CALENDAR ITEMS

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Topics to include: Forest Stand Improvement Under EQIP; Birds in our Woodlots; Hydrology & Our Woods; Using the Biltmore Stick and other activities as time allows. There will be a welcome Fish Fry on Friday, June 20 at 5:00 pm to meet the the experts at Fox Hollow Salmon River Lodge. A Wrap-up Bar-B-Q will immediately follow the woods walk at Fox Hollow Salmon River Lodge.

Attendance is by pre-registration only — no exceptions. Overnight accommodations are available at Fox Hollow. **To pre-register and secure lodging please call Winnie Godfrey at 315-298-7258.** Deadline for lodging is June 7th; Deadline to pre-register is June 14th.

2008 NY Master Forest Owner Volunteer Program Events

June 4-8: New volunteer training workshop. CCE of Greene County, Acra, NY

June 13: Annual meeting of MFO Regional Coordinators. Arnot Forest, Van Etten, NY

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

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

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

Sept. 17-21: New volunteer training workshop. Arnot Forest, Van Etten, NY

Oct. 25: Northern MFO Refresher Workshop. Hosted by Kelly Smallidge and Bill Scripner, Crown Point, NY

Agendas and more details yet to be arranged and will appear on the MFO website www.cornellmfo.info

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The New York Forest Owners Association thanks the people and organizations that supported our programs and publications in 2007. Your help is essential to our work.

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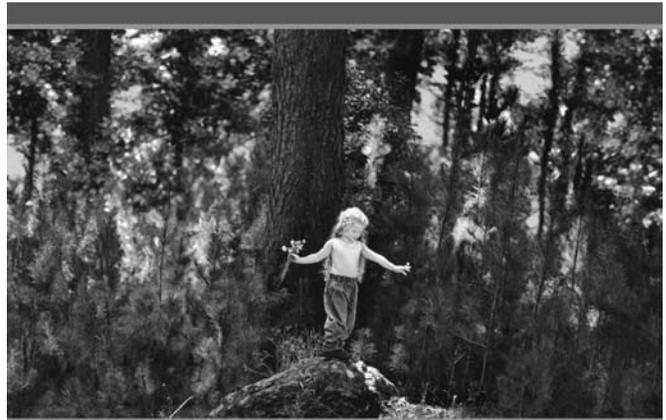
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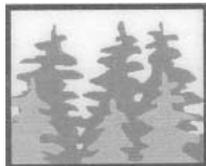
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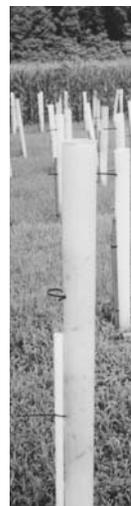
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Member Profile:

Dan Anderson

ALEXANDRA SILVA

Having always wanted a piece of wooded property, Dan Anderson has never regretted his 1977 purchase of 68 acres in Chautauqua County, New York. The property, affectionately known as The Great Dismal, includes a large NYS protected wetland and small trout stream, which resembles the great dismal when trudging through it (hence the name). In addition to the wetland areas, the property has a section of hardwoods that include conifers and three man-made ponds. The area's habitat diversity creates the perfect place for a wide range of wildlife. Ducks, geese, turkey, deer and bear (tracks) can all be found on the property, which provides for good hunting and fishing. While hunting is allowed on the property, Dan normally only hunts for turkey and pheasants with his two Labrador Retrievers. Deer are also hunted on the land, but Dan mostly enjoys the social part of

deer hunting and doesn't actually shoot deer very often.

Aside from the wetland and hardwood areas on the property, Dan has also begun creating food plots for the local wildlife. Of the three food plots created so far, two are a clover mix and growing well, while the other has Brassica in it. Unfortunately, the Brassica, which turns from bitter-tasting to sweet after freezing, hasn't done too well on the property and will probably be replaced by buckwheat in the near future.

Dan also spends much of his time adding to and maintaining the trail system he created on the property. After his tractor got stuck in a wet area, Dan and his wife, Shauna, decided that building a bridge would be more useful than having to use a winch to extract the tractor every time it gets stuck. Thus, as part of the trail system, Dan is planning on building a bridge to

minimize the time he spends spinning his tires.

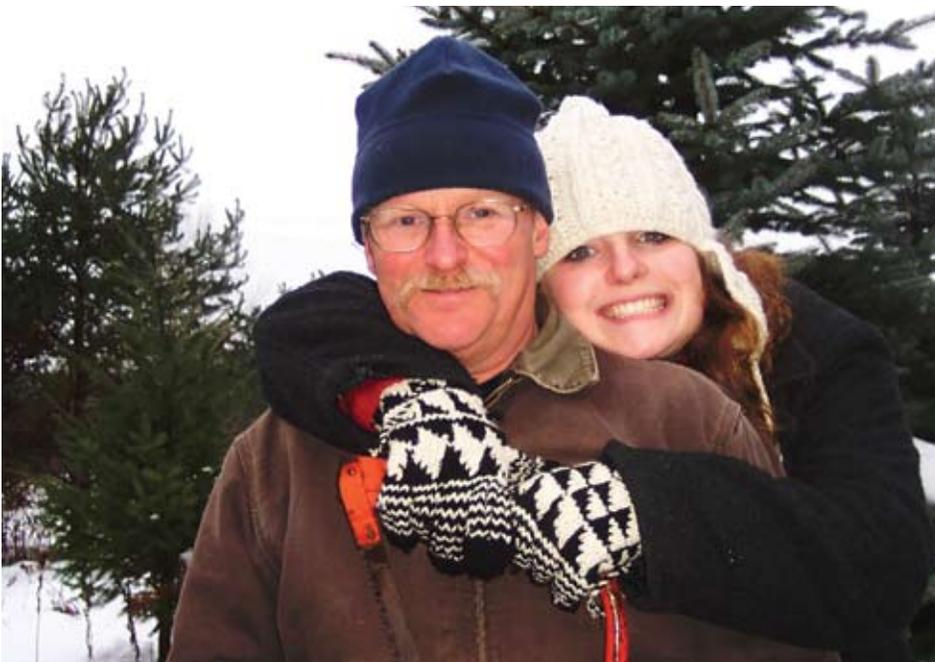
Over the years, Great Dismal has also seen a couple of timber sales and continual timber stand improvements. Before moving two years ago, the Anderson's heated their house with wood harvested from the property, but Dan still helps friends harvest firewood. Only the poorest quality trees, blow-downs, and tops from timber sales are taken for firewood.

As part of the timber stand improvements, Dan only harvests the worst third of the timber at a time in order to improve the overall quality of the left-over trees. In 1988 Dan harvested and sold most of the older red pines on the property since they tend to start uprooting and toppling over at 40 years old. The Anderson's had a hardwood sale in 1999, during which the lowest quality of the trees were sold. The original middle third of the trees were then harvested and sold in 2007, leaving only prime timber at present.

Dan does use some of the timber for his own personal use, however. He and a fellow AFC member, Tony Pingitore, make hand-crafted walking sticks using timber harvested from both Dan and Tony's properties. Tony carves and finishes the sticks from the original timber, after which Dan hand-paints designs. Once completed, the walking sticks are either sold or donated for raffles.

Unfortunately, the Anderson's don't get up to the 68-acre property as much as they would like to during the winter, though it makes for excellent cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Luckily, Dan and Shauna are able to visit the property several times a week from spring to fall since it is only two miles away from their home.

Dan and Shauna live on a 14.5 acre property that is also in Chautauqua County, near Lake Chautauqua. The house property is mostly wooded with a network of creeks running through it. White spruce, red maple and hemlock predominate the property, though large hard maples are also abundant. Currently, the trees on the house property



Dan Anderson and his daughter, Melanie, selecting a Christmas tree on their property. Selecting the annual Christmas tree from their property is an Anderson tradition.

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A view of one of the three man-made Anderson ponds built on the Great Dismal. The pond is stocked with bass and trout.

are allowed to grow freely as Dan is still unsure if he's interested in harvesting timber from the property. Near their house is a recently constructed barn built by an Amish team of the Anderson's own European Larch.

Having joined the Allegheny Foothills Chapter of NYFOA in 1991, one of the first things Dan remembers learning is the value of a management plan. Though he purchased the Great Dismal in 1977, it wasn't until his introduction to NYFOA that he began to manage the land for timber. After having a forester walk the land with him, Dan realized for the first time just how valuable his timber was, as young black cherry trees predominated. Prior to this, Dan had been removing them as nuisances! Since joining NYFOA, Dan has acted as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the AFC Chapter and has also worked on the Steering committee. He has also hosted several NYFOA woods walks on the 68-acre property and has held an AFC Chapter pond seminar. Dan is also currently an active MFO member.

Currently semi-retired, Dan teaches an introduction to Biology, Biology II and an Entomology course at Jamestown Community College. Previously a high school biology teacher in Westfield, NY, Dan is now an adjunct biology professor. Having spent most of his

childhood exploring the outdoors and developing an interest in forestry, it was a bit of a surprise when Dan discovered that he had a passion for teaching. After electing to do a student-teacher assignment as a high school teacher, Dan realized that he genuinely liked teaching and has a great personality for it. As a teacher, Dan feels that he has a chance to impart information to the developing generation, thus making a worthwhile impact. As forestry is his primary hobby, Dan brings a lot of forestry aspects to his courses, including field trips to his 68-acre property in Chautauqua County.

When not taking excursions to their own property, the Anderson's will travel abroad doing volunteer work. Melanie, the Anderson's daughter, and Shauna recently returned from a two week medical mission to Honduras. Both women are well suited for such a mission as Shauna is a nurse, and the President for Clinical Services for the Chautauqua County Hospice, while Melanie works in Warren Pennsylvania as a health educator for 11-19 year olds. Shauna was pleased that she didn't have to use her Hospice training while in Honduras! Bradley, their son, traveled to Louisiana last year in order to help with the Hurricane Katrina relief projects. Drawing from his skills as a chef

in a local restaurant, he was pressed into service as a cook while in Louisiana, thus limiting his time in rebuilding houses. Dan has also done his share of volunteer work, having traveled to the middle of Mexican mountain country to build a camp ground for local boys in an effort to keep them out of crime areas. This year Dan was supposed to travel to Alaska on another mission trip, but funding was lost and the program was unfortunately canceled.

The Anderson family has been provided with many years of pleasure through the stewardship of their woodland acreage. They look forward to many more years of enjoyment and activity. ▲

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

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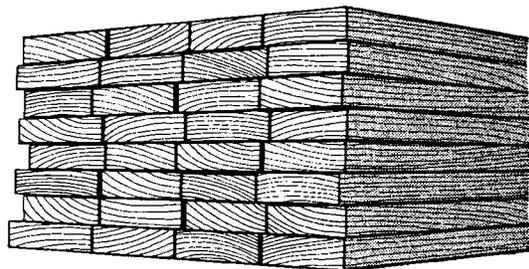
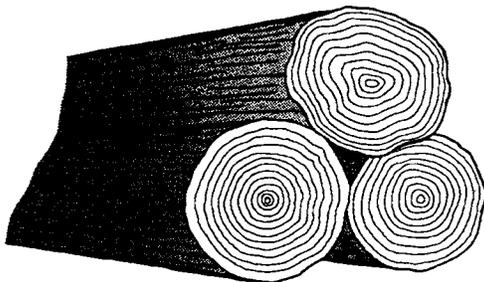
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