

The New York

FOREST OWNER

A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association

July/August 1992



THE NEW YORK FOREST OWNER

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COVER:

Beaver (*Castor canadensis*)
By Wayne Trimm
for THE CONSERVATIONIST.
August-September, 1974

FOREST OWNER

A publication of the New York Forest Owners Association
Editorial Committee: Betty Densmore, Richard Fox, Alan Knight, Mary McCarty
Norm Richards and Dave Taber.

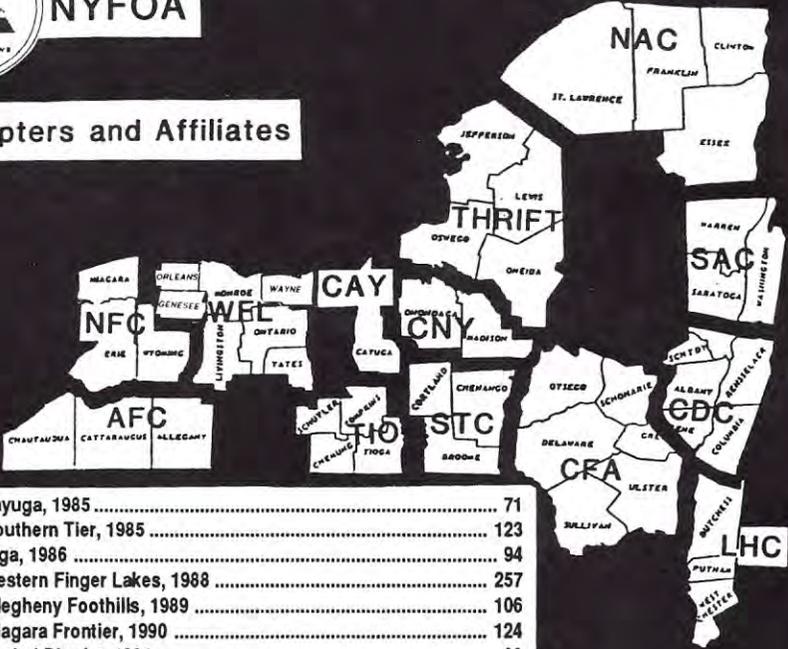
Materials submitted for publication should be addressed to: R. Fox, R.D. #3, Box 88, Moravia, New York 13118. Articles, artwork and photos are invited and are normally returned after use. The deadline for submission for Sept./Oct. is Aug. 1.

Please address all membership fees and change of address requests to P.O. Box 180, Fairport, N.Y. 14450. Cost of individual membership subscription is \$15.



NYFOA

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President's Message

By Stuart McCarty

Having been reelected to serve as your president for another year. I am sitting here at my word processor wondering how to give you a fresh message. There are a number of things going on in our world of practicing forestry and improving the stewardship of our woodlots. These exciting things should be reviewed and discussed, but I am going to leave those to the experts and again fill you in on how we are managing your association - a pretty dry subject but one which takes a lot of time for many of us and one which is essential if we are to continue to fulfill our mission. So please bear with me.

Other officers elected at the Board meeting on April were Don Wagner, 1st Vice President, Scotty Johnstone, Treasurer and Bob Sand, Recording Secretary. Don Wagner of Utica a director for two years, is new in the position and has agreed to be a candidate for president next year to succeed me. I am confident that he will do a fine job as your president. This year we will be working together to make the transition smoother.

Happily, still serving as our volunteer Executive Director is John Marchant. What a valuable asset he is to NYFOA! His latest project, building an information data base, is moving ahead. It is difficult for us to understand what a large undertaking this

is, which, coupled with his keeping abreast of developments in a number of organizations and committees, makes him a very busy person on behalf of all of us.

Charlie Mowatt was reelected for a two year term, continuing as chairman of chapter relations, and Dick Fox is back on the board and will continue serving as acting editor of the Forest Owner for which we are very grateful!

Our two new directors, Betty Densmore and John Krebs are already involved in the association. Betty, in addition to preparing the excellent joint newsletter of the AF/NF chapters has agreed to fill the much needed post of publicity chair for NYFOA and to take over as chair of the Editorial Committee from Dick Fox. John Krebs, along with Mary McCarty, my senior advisor, is already at work looking into obtaining tax deductible status for NYFOA.

With the intention of bringing you more information on legislative developments affecting forestry. I have asked Dave Colligan of Buffalo to serve as our legislative liaison. We believe this is an area needing attention and one which you should expect to be an active part of NYFOA.

I will be taking over as chair of membership for the time being so look to hearing from me about that favorite subject of mine.

Debbie Gill, our Administrative Secre-

tary, who is handling the position efficiently and competently has been appointed for another year, the second year of what we all hope will be a continuing relationship for many years to come.

Finally, thanks to our two retiring directors, Alan Knight and Bob Hellmann. They have served us well in various capacities. Alan, known to most of you as a former editor of the Forest Owner, will continue to serve as a member of the editorial committee where his knowledge of that field will be very useful.



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NYFOA Building Valuable Interactions With ESFPA

By John Marchant

NYFOA Executive Director

During the past year management representatives from the New York Forest Owners Association and the Empire State Forest Products Association have met to share our long range plans and specific programs which we hope will lead to better mutual support.

ESFPA is our window into New York State legislative issues and David Colligan

of NYFOA was just appointed as liaison to ESFPA to strengthen our knowledge of and participation in legislative matters affecting private forest land owners. David will provide a legislative column in the "FOREST OWNER" to keep all of us better informed.

NYFOA also participated in the ESFPA Spring Membership Meeting held on April 28 in Albany. The theme of the meeting was "Getting New York's Economy Back on Track". Speakers from several government agencies; including the Senate and Assembly, reviewed programs aimed at helping small businesses. There was lively discussion about how ineffective these had been in the forestry industry in the past and what was going to make them different now. The "Forest Resource Development Council" which the Governor is currently

forming was also described. The purpose of this group will be to follow up on the proposals set forth by the Governor's Task Force on Forest Industry. The need for NYFOA to have input to such a "Development Council" was discussed with several key people at the evening Legislative Reception.

And, Thanks To All Who Stood Up To Be Counted!

Even though it's very difficult to determine exactly how many letters were written to our state government officials, or which were the most influential, I can definitely state that two field forester positions were saved and reinstated. The efforts of all those who called or wrote letters did make a difference. A special thank you to all who took the time to make it happen.

WANTED

An Editor for the NY FOREST OWNER. For specifications contact Elizabeth Densmore, Chairman of the NYFOA Editorial Committee, 8228 S. Canada Hill, Machias, NY 14101

Introduced Insects Often Pose Biological and Economic Risks

By Douglas C. Allen

The movement of plants and animals from one continent to another began centuries ago when people travelled in search of trade or migrated to escape unacceptable social conditions. As intercontinental travel increased, first by sea and later by air, so did the frequency with which species were transplanted around the globe. In North America, purposeful and inadvertent introductions that began as a trickle in the 1700s became a torrent by the late 1800s. During the early days of this era, for example, many ships sailing to America from Europe loaded soil as ballast in southwestern England. The soil was unloaded in North America and exchanged for cargo. Along with the soil came many insects. However, many exotic forest pests of the twentieth century were introduced on unprocessed logs, planting stock and in or on ships and cargo. In spite of careful present day monitoring and inspections at all U.S. ports of entry, exotic plants and insects continue to be introduced accidentally, though at much lower rates than 50 or so years ago.

Irreversible Effects of Introductions

The consequences of allowing organisms to invade new habitats can be profound. Take California for example. More than 1000 plant species have been introduced on the West Coast, and in some areas of this state as much as 40% of the flora is non-native.

Black and brown rats followed Europeans to all corners of the world. The diminutive house sparrow was introduced purposely, first to New York and then New England, a little over a century ago. Now it is one of the most abundant birds species throughout the North American continent. As populations of these exotics increased, undoubtedly some native species were displaced or at least their populations were diminished.

Many introduced insects have slipped into the states with little fanfare, their disruption or displacement of local fauna going unnoticed. Only when the alien becomes a major agricultural, shade tree or forest pest do we become aware of its presence. However, all introductions have the potential to disorganize assemblages of native organisms and, in doing so, may have important effects on the function and biological diversity of native invertebrate and plant communities. Practically every

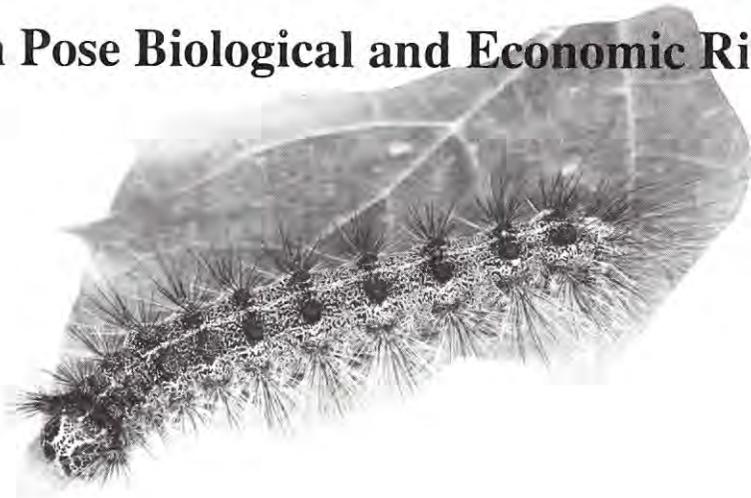


Figure 1. Gypsy moth caterpillar.



Figure 2. Gypsy moth female depositing eggs.

agricultural crop in the U.S. has at least one introduced pest of economic importance.

Examples from the Forest

Most people who live in the northeast have heard of gypsy moth (Figure 1), and I am sure many New York forest owners know that this defoliator was introduced from Europe. The origin of other forest pests such as European spruce sawfly, European pine sawfly, European elm bark beetle, and European pine shoot moth is revealed by their common names. On the other hand, there are many forest pests whose origin is known only to specialists. It might surprise you to learn that beech scale (the insect component of beech bark disease), balsam woolly adelgid (an aphid-like insect that causes extensive mortality in eastern stands of true fir (*Abies*), winter moth (a looper that defoliates oak and apple in the Canadian maritimes), larch sawfly and larch casebearer (defoliating caterpillars that constitute two of the most important pests of larch), and birch leafminer, for example, are also exotics.

Recent Headliners of Foreign Origin

Of all the forest health problems that have appeared in the northeast during the last decade, none was more surprising than the outbreak of pear thrips. It attacks the buds and foliage of many broadleaved trees, including sugar maple, black cherry, beech, and a variety of pome fruits. This

insect has been in the northeast since at least the early 1900s, yet the first extensive outbreak in eastern North America occurred in 1979. At this time, sugar maple on approximately 300,000 acres across Pennsylvania's northern counties was damaged extensively. The outbreak peaked in 1988 when in Pennsylvania alone more than one million acres were involved. Concurrently, extensive areas of northern hardwood forests in New England and New York also experienced maple damage.

Another forest pest in our region that has grabbed headlines recently is the aphid-like hemlock woolly adelgid; so named because for most of its life this soft-bodied, wingless insect is protected by a secreted woolly wax-like substance. It attacks a variety of native and ornamental hemlocks

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(*Tsuga* spp.), but survival and reproduction are highest (hence, damage is most likely) on eastern (*T. canadensis*) and Carolina (*T. caroliniana*) hemlocks.

Yes, both pear thrips and hemlock woolly adelgid are alien to North America. They entered on the west coast; thrips from Europe in 1904, and the adelgid from Japan around 1922.

Final Example - Another Gypsy Moth!

It is hard to believe that in our lifetime we could be blessed with not one but two gypsy moths in North America! Around 1981 an Asian strain arrived on the West Coast. To date, three infestations of the Asian gypsy moth (AGM) have been found, two in the United States and one in Canada. Populations of AGM in the U.S. occur in the vicinities of North Portland, Oregon and Tacoma, Washington. The Canadian infestation resides near Vancouver, British Columbia

In its native Siberia, AGM preferentially feeds on larch, but it fares well on a wider variety of host plants (including many broadleaved species) than the European strain that is so well established in the northeast. If our native larch and other western conifers prove to be suitable hosts, there is an almost continuous food source for AGM from the West Coast to the Great Plains. Additionally, susceptible broadleaved trees and shrubs are present in

every western town and adjacent to most riparian areas. Apple and other fruit trees are favored hosts, which is a concern in fruit growing regions of the Pacific Northwest.

AGM apparently came to the West Coast aboard Siberian ships that were infested with egg masses. After these vessels arrived in an American port to load grain, the eggs hatched and the small, hairy, buoyant caterpillars "ballooned" ashore on silken threads that the insects spin instinctively when they are dislodged.

In addition to its broad diet, this strain of gypsy moth has other unsettling features that enhance the likelihood of successful establishment. First of all, female moths can fly, hence there is a potential for rapid dispersal. This dispersal behavior differs from that of the European strain, the females of which, though winged, are unable to fly (Figure 2). Population spread in this case is accomplished solely by passive movement of ballooning larvae. Secondly, as many as 25% of AGM eggs will hatch without exposure to cold, a rare event in populations of the European strain. If AGM enters the southern U.S. (and many ships leaving Russian ports come through the Panama Canal and dock on our southern and eastern coasts), there is further potential for establishment and rapid spread of AGM. Two U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies (Forest Service, and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service)

have embarked on a 28 million dollar eradication program in the Pacific Northwest. We wish them success!

Why Are Some Introduced Insects So Successful?

The likelihood that an introduced insect will develop into a serious pest is determined by several factors: the size of the introduced population (the larger the number, the higher the probability of establishment), aggressiveness (how well it competes with native species), suitable climate, available food, and absence of natural enemies. Outbreaks are attributed mainly to the fact that exotics arrive here without the natural enemy complex (parasites and predators) with which they have coevolved. In the absence of extensive natural mortality and in the presence of suitable climate and abundant food, the insect rapidly attains its maximum reproductive potential.

Populations of introduced insects often are eruptive during the years immediately following their establishment. The maximum reproductive rate is maintained for a number of generations, and the population spreads rapidly away from the point of introduction. After a time the population collapses, often due to starvation and disease that take a heavy toll when insect densities are extremely high. Populations may remain relatively low and stable, or outbreaks may occur periodically thereafter.

TRESPASS

By David J. Colligan

Trespass is the act of entering upon another person's property against that person's express directive. In New York State it is a crime to trespass under the following circumstances:

1. Remaining on or returning to a property after being asked to leave and not return;

2. Entering upon property properly posted without permission. Proper posting requires 11" square signs not more than 660' apart located close to or along boundaries. There must be one sign per side and one sign per corner. The signs must bear the name and address of the person posting and must state "Posted" or describe the prohibited activity in a conspicuous statement. It is not recommended to brandish a firearm when requesting someone to leave.

3. Entering upon premises fenced or otherwise enclosed to exclude intruders.

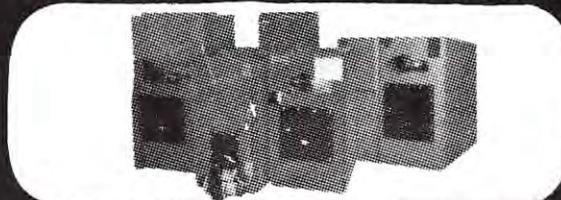
This does not mean fenced to enclose farm animals such as one or two strands of barbed wire. Criminal trespass can be enforced by calling for police or the Sheriff. If you suspect the trespasser is violating the conservation law you can call the DEC, however, response time is not very fast given the limited number of enforcement officers in any given region.

Trespassers can be held liable for civil damages even if no criminal action has

been taken. "Nominal" damages are available if no property damage has been done. Actual damages are recoverable if the trespasser has damaged your property. Any damage to timber or trees is recoverable at three times (treble) the value of the trees cut (RPAPL §861).

David Colligan is a NYFOA Director and a partner of the law firm of Watson, McGarvey et al in Buffalo.

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FURNACES AND BOILERS

Spring Meeting 1992



Some of NYFOA attendees after the luncheon during the Awards Ceremony.

By Betty Densmore

Management planning for small woodland ownership was the thrust of NYFOA'S Spring Meeting. Widely different approaches and objectives with one recurring theme.

Norm Richards and his crew can rest on their laurels for presenting a program of rare variety; entertaining, full of information and lots of audience participation. The 90 people who invested the time and effort to come to Syracuse from all parts of New York struck gold this year.

Helen Marchant and Debbie Gill got everyone name-tagged, registered and acclimated. It was nice to meet Debbie, our administrative secretary, who is such a fountain of help to chapter leaders and board members.

This year in the hospitality/dining area each chapter set up a table with informational hand-outs, pictures, albums, etc. Full use was made of this wonderful opportunity for members to get to know each other and gather new ideas to re-vitalize their chapters.

Stuart McCarty set the tone for this very upbeat day when he led off with the President's report, brimming with visions of a sunny future for NYFOA and an ever expanding membership. He also gave awards to the winners in the Membership contest. John Marchant, executive director, followed with an equally favorable outline of how NYFOA is networking and participating with other associations such as: New York Tree Farmers, Empire State Forest Products Association, New York State Stewardship Committee, National Woodland Owners Association, Coverts/Master Forest Owners Program and others. He also praised the quality of leadership in

NYFOA saying, "We have a bumper crop of good leadership in chapters and on the Board of Directors,"

Angus "Scotty" Johnstone assured us that NYFOA is financially strong and running in the black. Charlie Mowatt reported that Chapters and Affiliates have never been more vital and dynamic than at present.

This optimistic prelude launched a day of presentations that allowed us to participate vicariously in the management processes of some extraordinary woodlot owners. Harriet Hamilton shared the history of the woodlot that won her family the National Tree Farmers Award of 1991. We watched slides illustrating the progress of years of planning, hard work, joys, problems, and successes. We "saw" the progress from brush fields to forests. We got to know the roads and trails, the ponds and beautifully managed forests. We had the pleasure of Harriet's wit and wisdom. The pride and satisfaction and love she so justly feels came shining through her commentary.

Jane Sorensen Lord, PhD, OTR, activist, author, communications consultant and Tree Farmer entertained and educated us with gusto as she related her experiences as a total novice to woodlot ownership. It was a revelation to those of us who were born and raised on rural acres to see through her eyes the mystery and pleasure of learning about forest stewardship. After years of urban living she and her husband bought and now live on forested property. Jane's love affair with her own forest spawned her program for inner city children "Backyard Tree Farmers". She quickly realized that mentally and physically handicapped kids could learn more and have greater successes raising living things than any other

way. Jane's zest and humor made this a memorable presentation.

A fine lunch put us in the right frame of mind for a very expanded awards session. It is wonderful to see so many awards coming to NYFOA members from other forestry associations. Kind of makes you think we're on the right track!

Beth and David Buckley of West Valley presented their very professional audio/visual program MAKING YOUR LAND MORE ATTRACTIVE TO WILDLIFE. Thirty years of experience and lots of hard work have been captured on film to show how and what to do to fill your acres with deer, birds, raccoons, skunks, turkey and every other denizen of the wild. The superb photography and clear explanations made such an effort seem eminently desirable and attainable.

John Marchant, executive director of NYFOA, and ardent computer buff, made using a personal computer as a tool for woodland management seem like a perfectly plausible thing to do in his slide presentation. What to do, how to do it and the benefits of it all made sense even to this computer illiterate. If I could be convinced his presentation was a smashing success.

Laura Alban's offering on management perspectives of small woodlot owners stressed the need for forestry professionals to give up their beloved lingo and learn to communicate in terms readily understood by every woodlot owner. "TSI", "Basal Area", "DBH" can be learned, but why not start off with, "What do you want to achieve in your woodlot?" Novices to forest management are put at a disadvantage when faced with a flood of terms new to them. Laura maintains that plain language is needed to capture their interest and foster participation in management plans.

The audience participation was remarkable with a lively question and answer period following each segment. There were many excellent exchanges bringing the audience fully into the program. The variety of interactions, chapter informational handouts, questions and answers, the dozens of animated conversations among attendees mark this as an unusually successful meeting. The interesting diversity of subjects is proof that the stewardship concept works in many ways for NYFOA members. If good stewardship and management are NYFOA's goals, surely they were fostered and nurtured well! at this zestful meeting.

The New York Forest Owners Association, Inc. Awards

1992 Heiberg Memorial Award

The presentation of the Heiberg Award for 1992 is a pleasant privilege for me. Today's award is the 26th. The first presentation to Dean Hardy L. Shirley was made at our 4th. annual meeting in this same room on April 30, 1966. It is in recognition for outstanding contributions in the fields of forestry and conservation in New York State. Past Recipients of the HEIBERG MEMORIAL AWARD: 1967 David B. Cook; 1968 Prof. Floyd Carlson; 1969 Mike Demeree; 1970 None; 1971 Fred Winch, Jr.; 1972 John Stock; 1973 Robert M. Ford; 1974 C. Eugene Farnsworth; 1975 Alex Dickson; 1976 Edward W. Littlefield; 1977 Maurice 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 Karyn B. Richards; 1987 Henry G. Williams; 1988 Robert M. Sand; 1989 Willard G. Ives; 1990 Ross S. Whaley; 1991 Robert S. Stegemann.

Svend O. Heiberg, a renowned Professor of Silviculture, devoted much of his career here at the N.Y. College of Forestry. Dr. Heiberg first proposed the establishment of an association of Forest Landowners in N.Y. State. He enlisted the efforts of Dean Shirley, and together they initiated this successful Forest Owners Association. This award is presented in his memory.

The TUG HILL COMMISSION was formed in 1978. It comprises the four Counties of Oswego, Oneida, Jefferson and Lewis. It is characterized by a gentle, rolling landscape, sand and gravel soils and significant cleared land that is reverting to forest. Winters are cold, with heavy snowfall. It is home to a special group of dedicated forest owners, who in 1981 formed a new organization, naming it THRIFT. (Tug-Hill-Resources-Investment-For-Tomorrow) The success of THRIFT is directly associated with the dedicated leadership of a unique couple-- BONNIE and DONALD COLTON of

Lowville, Lewis County.

For over 10 years, they have nurtured and promoted this wonderful group of forest owners. Don, for many years served as President, and Bonnie added her skills with boundless energy, as secretary/treasurer, program coordinator and newsletter Editor, a job she continues.

THRIFT recently reorganized and is now well positioned to continue as a growing and viable Affiliate of NYFOA. Throughout Tug Hill, the Adirondacks and much of New York State, this dedicated team is well known. Their expertise has had a single purpose; to serve THRIFT's membership. It's been a 10 year tenure as tireless champions on forestry issues. Today we are privileged to present the 1992 HEIBERG MEMORIAL AWARD to Bonnie and Donald Colton, acknowledging their outstanding dedication to Forestry and Conservation in New York. Congratulations.

1992 Outstanding Service Award

Today we honor the 1992 recipient of this award. It is recognition for outstanding service to the New York Forest Owners Assoc., and affords us the opportunity to make this presentation to RICHARD J. FOX of Moravia, Cayuga County, New York. It is the fifteenth year the award has been presented as tangible recognition for dedicated service to our membership. Let me review the growing list of past recipients: 1978 Emiel Palmer; 1979 Ken Eberley; 1980 Helen Varian; 1981 J. Lewis DuMond; 1982 Lloyd Strombeck; 1983 Evelyn Stock; 1984 Dorothy Wertheimer;

1985 David H. Hanaburgh; 1986 A. W. Roberts, Jr.; 1987 Howard O. Ward; 1988 Mary & Stuart McCarty; 1989 Alan R. Knight; 1990 Earl Pfarnar; 1991 John & Helen Marchant.

This is our 30th year of service to forest owners. All have benefitted by membership, yet we must keep in mind that NYFOA's work is only accomplished by volunteer energies. I believe it is a "labor of love" that brings pleasure and satisfaction. We willingly share not only enthusiasm; our management skills and all our gleaned expertise with those willing to take the time to hike, look and of course listen.

Dick Fox has served two terms as a Director, and begins a third term today. He served with distinction as Advertising Manager for the 1990 Directory Issue; chairman of the Program Committee for the 1987 Casowasco Oct. Meeting, and chairman of the Editorial Committee. He has served on the Awards Committee. Presently Dick is Acting Editor of the FOREST OWNER. He represents Cayuga

County on the Region 7 Forest Practice Board, and last fall became a Master Forest Owner.

Richard Fox early championed NYFOA Chapter Development, and was instrumental in 1985 of founding the CAYUGA CHAPTER by personally recruiting over eighty new members locally. His creative leadership has greatly enhanced NYFOA membership. Growth has been dramatic. Today we have over 1,600 members, 11 Chapters and two Affiliates. Dick's commitment and service is appreciated. His expertise is recognized by this Award. It gives me great pleasure to present the 1992 Outstanding Service Award to Richard J. Fox and to acknowledge the sincere appreciation of all NYFOA members for his many contributions of time and talent to NYFOA. A special thank you for everything.

Congratulations!

Remarks as delivered at the NYFOA Spring Meeting Awards Ceremony by Bob Sand, Chairman of the Awards Committee.

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**Gerry Kachmor, Dick Molyneaux, Frank Rose;
NYS OUTSTANDING TREE FARMER**



**Jack Hamilton, Harriet Hamilton, Mike Greason;
FORESTRY/ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

All Photos Spring Meeting Courtesy of Dave Taber, Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Outstanding New York Tree Farmer Named

By Dave Taber and Gerry Kachmor

Broome County's Richard Molyneaux was honored as the 1992 NYS Outstanding Tree Farmer, on Arbor Day/Earth Day Weekend, during the annual meeting of the 1600 member New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA), at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse.

Presenting the award were Frank Rose, Chair of the NYS Tree Farm Committee and Forester with Cotton-Hanlon, and Tree Farm Inspecting Forester Gerry Kachmor, a NYS DEC Service Forester. In recognizing Molyneaux for his accomplishments, spanning over 40 years of commitment to forest stewardship, Rose noted that this Tree Farmer has had a "never ending dedication to good conservation and serves as a shining example for tree farmers everywhere".

Dick Molyneaux of Endicott, NY, with land straddling the Broome and Tioga county line, started planting trees in 1948. Since then he has planted more than 90,000 trees and 45,000 wildlife shrubs on his 400 acre Tree Farm. He has constructed 5 ponds, one for his family's recreation and 4 to improve wildlife habitat. He began raising pheasants in 1962, and over the years, has constructed several hundred blue-bird houses.

Dick's land has been under a Soil and Water Conservation District plan since 1955, and a USDA Soil Conservation Service plan since 1963. He received his Tree Farm certificate in 1967, and with the help of professional foresters, improved 75 acres through cull removal and firewood sales. Dick has also harvested 15 acres of timber from the tree farm, utilizing the tops for firewood. In 1985 he built a barn with his own hemlock trees, sawing the lumber on his own mill.

In 1957 he founded the Broome County Christmas Tree Growers Association, in 1969 became a member of the Rural Development Committee of Broome County, and in 1973 joined the New York Forest Owners Association. Dick's other Tree Farm - related memberships include: The American Forest Association, The American Chestnut Foundation, The Farm Bureau, Cooperative Extension of Broome and Tioga Counties, The National Christmas Tree Club, and the Chenango Valley Coon Hunters Club.

Dick has been a 4-H Club Project Leader and Assistant Leader for 25 years, teaching tree identification, carpentry, hunter safety,

snowmobile safety, and fire protection.

With the National Christmas Tree Growers Association, Dick toured British Columbia, Denmark, Norway and Sweden; with the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association he toured Colorado, Oregon, Washington and California; and he visited Alaska with the American Agriculture Tour.

The New York Society of American Foresters Awards

By Michael C. Greason, Chairman

The SOCIETY COMMENDATION AWARD is presented to any individual, group, committee, or organization in New York to recognize unusual, extraordinary or significant contributions to furthering the goals of the Society and the profession of forestry. NYFOA is the 1992 recipient. NYFOA has become an outstanding organization promoting the wise stewardship of New York's forest resources. The Forest Owner Magazine, Woodland Steward newsletter, chapter development, participation on the New York Forest Stewardship Committee, woodwalks and meetings have made NYFOA a nationally recognized association effectively promoting good forestry. The fact that NYFOA is developing a close relationship with the New York Tree Farm Committee and the Department of Environmental Conservation demonstrates effective leadership on the part of NYFOA. The fact that both of New York's national and most of the state Outstanding Tree Farmers are members of NYFOA is symbolic of the quality of the organization and its membership.

The FORESTRY COMMUNICATIONS AWARD is to recognize any newspaper, magazine, television or radio station, reporter, columnist, or photographer for outstanding news coverage of forestry issues and activities, and/or SAF activities. John Marchant is the 1992 recipient. Primarily this award is presented to John for his conceiving, developing and producing the Woodland Steward newsletter. However, the committee also wants to make sure that John's writing in the Forest Owner, participation in the New York Forest Stewardship Video, his major work surrounding the Master Forest Owner/Coverts Program, and promoting a "800" phone in information service are recognized equally as contributions to effective forestry communications. John's unself-

Since 1964, he has hosted eight meetings on his property including New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) "woods walks" and Christmas tree seminars, culminating in 1990 with the New York Christmas Tree Growers' summer meeting, attended by 1200 people. Mr. Molyneaux regularly has classes from local schools tour his farm to learn about trees.

ish volunteering, dedication and commitment to New York's forest resources is truly infectious.

The FORESTRY/ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AWARD is for any individual, group, organization, institution or business to recognize outstanding accomplishments to forestry education. National Outstanding Tree Farmers Jack and Harriet Hamilton are this year's recipients. The energy this couple has devoted to spreading the good forestry word is amazing. This past year has seen almost a steady flow of people touring the Tree Farm and the groups have been diverse as well. From a tour of political and land use leaders to the Sierra Club to "Walk on Wednesday", the list must be in the hundreds of people who have had the opportunity to see this national award example of fine forest stewardship. In addition, the Hamiltons assisted the Forest Stewardship Committee by being the focal point of two media efforts. They hosted a 50th anniversary media celebration for Tree Farm which received television and major newspaper coverage. They were shown as National Outstanding Tree Farmers in a video news release (VNR) that was beamed up to a satellite for nationwide media pickup. A half a dozen cable news networks requested original copies of the release. They were in the first graduating class of Master Forest Owner/Covert volunteers and have been very active educating forest owners of opportunities in management and belonging to such organizations as NYFOA. They, along with John Marchant, starred in the Forest Stewardship Video. They have strived to educate many audiences about forestry.

The New York Society of American Foresters (NYSAF) is a 558 member professional society and part of the national Society of American Foresters (SAF).

CHAPTER REPORTS

ALLEGHENY FOOTHILLS

May 16 more than 30 turned out for a woodswalk on the Anderson Trust Property in Mayville. The tour featured a timber harvest in progress and touched on developing a sustainable all-age management scheme, timber marking prescription, selection criteria for determining trees to remove, road layout and construction, cleanup and retirement.

On July 18 at 10 a.m. we will meet at David Mowatt's property in Franklinville for our annual picnic. Bring a dish to pass and meat to barbecue. This is always a DO NOT MISS social event where just plain fun is the featured event. The best opportunity to meet your fellow chapter members in a relaxed atmosphere.

CATSKILL FOREST ASSOCIATION

We have been busy at CFA and have had a very successful Spring; April and May's activities brought in 5 new members.

On March 28th we held a Wildlife Enhancement Workshop which drew over 40 people. Scott Van Arsdale, a wildlife technician from DEC region 4, was the guest speaker and brought up many points which people should consider before jumping into any wildlife projects.

April 25th, the CFA staff and Jack McShane (Board President) attended NYFOA's spring meeting.

23 showed up on May 2nd for a woodswalk on Henry Kernan's property in South Worcester. Henry's land and great ability to relate his forest experiences made for a wonderful outing.

The following day CFA had a booth at Hansford Mills Museum for the Arbor Day celebration. CFA helped distribute over 200 white spruce seedlings which Henry Kernan donated for the occasion.

17 went to the tour at Boiceville Lumber on May 9th. The mill wasn't running as planned due to problems with their electrical generator, but everyone got to see the machines up close. We started the tour in the log yard and proceeded through the mill and ended up at the lumber piles. After the tour we went to Bob Cruickshank's property in Glenford for a woodswalk. It was an interesting piece of property that was cut last fall to promote wildlife. An area which was cut nine years ago could be compared to the new cut.

CAYUGA

On April 27, 1992 the Cayuga Chapter applied for and received membership in the Federation of Conservation Clubs of Cayuga County. The county federations send representatives to the New York State Conservation Council which represents over 300,000 individuals throughout the state. In addition to providing a continual advisory service to NYS DEC and sections of the State Legislature, the Conservation Council publishes a newsletter (10 times per year) and conducts conservation and environmental education programs.

July 11 at 1 PM Region 7 Utilization and Marketing Forester Jim Peek will conduct a log scaling and grading workshop at Tom Hewitt's woodlot in Locke, NY. Tim Roberson and his portable saw mill will saw selected logs for hands on evaluation while Forester Peek will advise attendees on drying and storage.

Finally, an August 20 picnic and pond seminar is scheduled at Wendell Hatfield's Dresserville Farm.

CENTRAL NEW YORK

The Central New York Chapter has new editors for the newsletter; Bill and Clara Miner have taken over the task of putting out our newsletter.

We are not planning any meetings until after the summer months. We ARE planning a day long program in Heiberg Forest in late July. It will encompass all aspects of woodland management, including pond building and road and trail building. We hope it will be well attended and expect to have a good time in a beautiful forest. Anyone wishing information call Tom Ellison at 315-682-9376 for details.

Our next scheduled meeting is in September, details are not complete at this time.

LOWER HUDSON

Though things have been a bit slow here in the Hudson Valley over the past few months, we're gearing up for an action-packed summer. By the time this report is published we will already have held our landmark, Manhattan "woodswalk" at the American Museum of Natural History.

Next up - and in fact scheduled for Thursday, July 23 - is a "Lower Hudson Legislative Bus Tour". Co-sponsored by the Lower Hudson Chapter, the Region 3 Forest Practice Board, and DEC, the tour (which will accommodate up to 90 people) will begin at the Stony Kill Farm Environmental Education Center in Wappingers Falls NY. The day will start out with coffee and doughnuts and a tour of the Center's "Demonstration Forest". From there it's on to the Woytuck Tree Farm in Wassaic. Here we will have the opportunity to meet with NYFOA member Peter Woytuck who will relate to us the pro's and con's of forest ownership in the Lower Hudson Valley while hosting a tour of a timber harvesting operation (shelterwood cutting) which will be in progress at the time. After lunch (which will be provided FREE!) it's back on the bus for a short ride to the J&J Log and Lumber Company in Dover Plains for a tour of their sawmill and equally impressive dry kiln operation. Here, we'll watch logs harvested from local tree farms processed into finished lumber. From there, it's off for another short trip to Hunt Country Furniture, also in Dover Plains, where we'll watch as skilled craftsmen take the finished lumber from mills such as J&J and convert it into fine furniture. Refreshments will be provided and the busses are equipped with both air conditioning and rest-rooms.

Throughout the day, NYFOA members will have the opportunity to interact with their local and state representatives and discuss forestry related issues. Lawmakers will have an opportunity to view forest management and its supporting industries "from the stump to the showroom" - and learn a thing or two about their forest owning constituents and the New York forest economy in the process.

Pre-registration will be required and on a first come first serve basis. There is NO FEE for attendance. Lunches and other refreshments WILL BE PROVIDED at no cost. All NYFOA members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Interested parties should write or call Bob Davis c/o Stony Kill Farm, Route 9-D, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590 (914-831-3109) to pre-register. Further information will be sent to all those inquiring.

Chapter Reports Cont'd.

NORTHERN ADIRONDACK

By Wes Suhr

Thanks to the Adirondack Chapter Society of American Foresters and SUNY College of Environmental Scientific and Forestry for the excellent spring program on the Wanakena Campus May 13. Special thanks for the invite and arrangements go to Kevin O'Neill and Wayne Allen of the Ranger School, and Adirondack Chapter (SAF) officers Rene Germain and Tim Burpoe. It was a sunny morning with few bugs when Wayne toured us over the Dubuar Forest to observe student and sale-area logging, planting and prescribe burning sites.

In the afternoon about 45 people (half NYFOA) sat in a large classroom to learn all about conservation easements (CE) from a team of managers. We learned that a CE is a flexible land management tool where specific landowner rights may be transferred to the State for significant reductions in property taxes. Each CE is tailored to fit the land and specific landowner desires. Make sure to include clauses to protect all future intended use of your land.

Future activities? Plan a late summer/fall party/woodswalk at? Next NAC NEWSletter coming in July? Re-ignite membership drive? Selecting Master Forest Owner candidates? In other words NAC STAFF we got to get together!

ALL NAC MEMBERS--please fill out and return your "profile". It serves as a useful planning tool only when a majority of the membership informs us of their interests and desires.

SOUTHEASTERN ADIRONDACK

SAC has a tour scheduled for August 22 on the Anthony Conte Farm located on Hickory Hill Road in Salem, New York. Emphasis will be on wildlife habitat (grouse) and recreation in the forest management plan.

SOUTHERN TIER

The May 5th meeting of the STC addressed the "Do's and Don'ts of Hunting Leases". Chapter members watched a video from the Cooperative Extension Service of the states of Texas and Oklahoma which

reviewed various landowner concerns in hunting lease operation. Then an open forum was held in which NYFOA members presently leasing lands for hunting shared their experiences with the chapter membership.

The summer woodswalk was held at the Al Roberts Tree farm in Groton on June 13.

No additional summer meetings have been planned to give chapter members time to catch up on work on their own tree farms.

WESTERN FINGER LAKES

June 13th featured a woodswalk at C & Z Farms hosted by Roger Clark. The mem-

bers toured a state of the art sawmill which produces 2 million board feet per year. Also a walk through a 90 acre certified Tree Farm specializing in growing high quality sugar maple, bass wood, red oak and ash.

The May 20th meeting featured a program on conservation easements presented by B. J. Van Arsdale, attorney and board member of the Genesee Land Trust.

Our steering committee sent out a membership survey which covers their activities on forested land in their possession. We are expecting a large return from members; from this information the planning of future programs and woodswalks can be fine tuned to meet the needs of members.

A VERMONT WOODSWALK

by Erwin Fullerton

I just had the opportunity to attend a Forest Stewardship Demonstration tour in Vermont to see how they handle a "woodswalk". This took place in Woodstock at the King Farm managed by the Vermont Land Trust.

The mission of the Vermont Land Trust is to protect those productive, recreational and scenic lands which give Vermont its rural character. They use easements to protect land from development.

After cider and doughnuts a talk was given on the Stewardship Incentive Program by the county forester. The tour through fields to the woodlands started with a ride by team and wagon.

The winter logging job using a skidder left the forest with a network of 8-10 feet wide trails that will be usable for skiing, horseback riding, hiking and pickup truck use. The selective cutting of maple, birch, beech, pine and hemlock left almost no

trees barked and tops were broken up to 24" to 30".

The emphasis of logging here is more towards wildlife habitat, recreation improvement and less on timber sales for income as compared with a typical New York State tree farm. The SIP is geared toward the private land owner who is not involved in a land management program at this time. Vermont's management plans use a private forester to make the plan which must be o.k.'d by the county forester. The State of Vermont pays the towns 80 to 90% of the property taxes for the land owner. This is set up for a ten year period and if land is taken out for development penalties are paid by the land owner.

Involved in the tour was the logger, Vermont state biologist, and Trust staff who gave talks and answered questions. The tour ended with refreshments and the chance to visit other land owners and hear of their problems and successes.

WANTED

VENEER TREES — R.O., W.O.,
H.M., Ash, Cherry and Walnut

- ★ Any Amount of Trees
- ★ Low Impact
- ★ High Profit
- ★ Free Appraisals
- ★ Anywhere in NY and PA

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Apalachin, New York 13732
607/687-1598

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CONSEQUENCES . .

By Robert Gotie

It is January 1, 2005; one decade after the European Economic Community (EEC) banned wild fur imports from the United States. The front page headline on the evening edition of the Albany Times Union reads, "STATE MAMMAL OFFICIALLY DECLARED A PEST."

The article begins, "Commissioner Furliss Friday of the New York State DEC removed all legal protection on the American beaver today. New Yorkers may now kill beaver at anytime, in any number and in any manner. They may also disturb or destroy beaver dams and lodges as well without prejudice." This action he claims, "is necessary because beaver populations have grown completely out of control in the 10 years since the EEC ban." Does this seem far fetched or unbelievable? The facts speak differently.

On November 7, 1991 The Council of The European Communities (EEC) adopted their "wild fur regulation." This regulation becomes effective January 1, 1995. It prohibits importation of fur products from certain species to the European Community. The ban will apply to countries which do not either ban foothold traps or adopt international humane trapping standards. According to the original council resolutions, European animal rights groups played a major role in gaining passage of this trade ban.

The American beaver is one of thirteen species listed in this ban. It is a very common rodent in New York today. The United States is a major exporter of beaver pelts and products to Europe. The foothold trap is the principle live holding device used for capturing wild furbearers in the U.S. International humane trapping standards do not exist. Furthermore, it's unlikely that 50 states will unanimously ban the foot trap or adopt these standards when they become available.

The market demand for wild fur products drives trapper interest. Without a market for beaver products there will be little interest in harvesting beaver. The legal harvest of beaver by trapping is the only practical means for regulating beaver populations. New York wildlife managers rely on this fact to manage beaver populations for the benefit of all New Yorkers.

Our goal for beaver is to maintain about 14,000 active beaver colonies north of New York City. A removal of about 18,000 beaver is necessary each year to keep beaver populations from growing above this level. When beaver populations are at this level, we expect to hear land-



"Beaver in a Ditch" - Photo by Paul Curtis, Cornell Cooperative Extension.

owner complaints on about 1800 of these locations. Likewise, at this level beaver dams convert about 210,000 acres of land to shallow water wetlands. These wetlands produce habitat for a wide range of wildlife species. We know from previous studies that the majority of New York landowners are tolerant of beaver populations held at this level.

I still remember from my high school physics teacher, Mrs Aloisio, that for every action there is an opposite and equal reaction. At the time I didn't fully understand what this meant. However, I do now and so will many New Yorkers over the next decade. The simple truth of this axiom will be realized as a direct result of the EEC ban.

Without legal trapping, beaver populations will explode beyond imagination. New York biologists conservatively estimate there are about 18,000 active beaver colonies in New York at present. Because of a depressed wild fur market, raw pelt prices have declined in recent years. This situation has discouraged trappers from harvesting enough beaver to keep the beaver population from growing. The EEC import ban will accelerate this growth. Based upon our knowledge of beaver and their current population status, New Yorkers should expect the following.

By the year 2005 the beaver population will rise to it's biological maximum of 46,000 active colonies. Beaver dams will cause flooding on 567,000 acres of land. New Yorkers will report about 8,000 locations where beaver conflict with their uses of the land. Property damage alone will amount to 8.8 million dollars. More than a million dollars in services formerly provided free by licensed fur trappers will now be borne entirely by landowners. The proverbial "free lunch" will now be over.

Loss of the market incentive will mean unemployment checks for about 7,000 fur garment workers in New York. A 60 million dollar annual payroll and a 50 million dollar manufacturing profit line in New York City will be lost. An annual income of 325,000 dollars to about 4,000 beaver trappers will no longer be possible. To some people in our society this is merely loose change; a justifiable cost for eliminating the evil of trapping animals for their fur. To others it means the difference between eating or paying the rent.

I could go on. I haven't even mentioned the biological consequences. They don't paint a rosy picture either, but I think you already get the point. The animal rights inspired import ban in Europe will reverberate across New York and our Nation. New York's management system for beaver will be significantly impaired. If you don't believe me, check with forest landowners in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, South Carolina or elsewhere in the southeastern U.S. They are already at the point where New York is headed.

The scene I have portrayed for beaver populations is admittedly the worst case. New markets for wild fur products could open up. The U.S. could win a legal challenge of this trade ban in the World Court. The U.S. could force concessions from Europe by imposing a trade ban of it's own. We could adopt international humane trapping standards or eliminate the use of foot traps. All of these steps are possible between now and the year 2005. If taken, the result would be continued management of the beaver resource and a more positive outcome for New Yorkers. However, what is possible is not always probable.

Solution to Beaver Brouhaha Sought

By Dorothy Long

VENICE—A county official has come up with a compromise he hopes will settle a dispute between several industrious beavers and this town.

Now it is up to the town and Ivan Clark—the human owner of the beaver's watery estate—to work together, says Jim Hotaling, of the county's Soil and Water Department.

"This problem is resolvable," Hotaling says.

Clark says the town is trying to divert a stream that feeds a series of beaver ponds on his property. That, Clark says, is illegal.

Hotaling agrees. "I explained to the town that, without permission, you can't divert the water course to someone's property."

Town officials say the beavers' dam backs the stream up and floods a town road. Even when the water level is low, they say, a culvert under the road fills with standing water, damaging the road. They say the town has a right to maintain its property.

Town officials also have a point, Hotaling says. It is illegal to allow the stream to back up and infringe on another's property.

"Soil and Water will be neutral and work with everybody."

Hotaling isn't the only one hoping a compromise will save the beaver ponds. Paul Lattimore, president of the Owasco Watershed Lake Association, said he considers saving the ponds environmentally significant.

"We are working a lot of hours to protect the wetlands and watershed, and here we have someone who wants to give a wetland to the community."

Lattimore said he'll support Hotaling's proposal if it protects the ponds. He said Clark should be getting more help from the state Department of Environmental Conservation as well.

Hotaling has suggested Clark install a



THE POND. Ivan, a beekeeper for over 50 years and a member of the Cayuga Chapter, asserts the location of the former corduroy road at this point has been moved in recent years and is now an obvious encroachment.

3-foot-high flashboard structure that could be manipulated to control the level of the marsh by allowing more water to drain. The water level would be gradually reduced about 6 inches, he said.

The plastic structure would cost Clark about \$200, Hotaling said. Soil and Water would install it at no additional cost.

The town would fill in the ditch across the road from Clark's property so all the water would flow through, except during storms and spring melts.

Water would stand about 5 inches in the culvert for short times during spring runoff and storms, he said, but not enough to damage the road. Hotaling said there are factors other than the beaver pond that cause the road to hold water.

Town Attorney Charles Marangola said the town board seems to like the proposal.

"They just want to settle this and get the water off the right away."

Clark is considering the proposal, but fears the drain will lower the water level so much the beavers will leave.

But, he said, the town has threatened to get a court order to tear down the dam if he doesn't agree.

It has taken Clark years to create the 83-acre wetland wildlife sanctuary on his property. In 1957, he planted 25,000 trees. And 12 years ago, he had the DEC relocate the first two beavers to his property. They and subsequent generations have created a paradise for several types of ducks and other birds. Clark has kept the ponds stocked with fish. Rabbits, deer and muskrats are among the other animals that frequent the area.

"All kinds of wildlife live there," Clark said. "If you take the ponds away that's all gone."

Clark said he is willing to accept a compromise that would lower the pond no more than 6 inches. That's exactly how much Hotaling says his proposal will lower it.

Although the beavers will eventually deplete their food source and leave, Hotaling said, the flashboard system will allow Clark to maintain the water level for the rest of the wetlands inhabitants.

"Let's give Ivan a chance to do something for the waterfowl," he said.

From The Citizen, June 5, 1992

A Roadside Pond

By Lfee Signor

It's only a pond by the side of the road
Where local folks may go and see
A wildlife marsh; no toll or parking fee.

Not a man made pool, but a beaver's best
A natural pond fed by a spring
In which no one needs to invest;

Where kids may watch the tadpoles hatch
And hear the old one croak,
Where ducks may nest and rear their young
Safe from roaring machines.

Just a country lane crossing the fields
Not a main highway by any means.
Just a quiet placid wildlife marsh,
Why shatter other's dreams?

Really it's causing no one harm
So why not let this wild spot be;
Instead of changing Nature's course,
To hasten the stream to the sea?

Man has come; but Mankind may go,
Ma Nature will build and destroy.
Give Her some slack; Man's life is no more
Than a pond by the side of the road.

CONSEQUENCES.....

Indeed, I believe the consequences described earlier are more likely.

To be sure, society's actions will always result in consequences. Sometimes society benefits. At other times society pays. To reach what some people define as moral high ground, The European Community will set aside 100 years of beaver management experience in New York. It will cost you millions of dollars annually. It will destroy a uniquely American tradition. Will the consequences be worth it?

The Albany Times article concludes

with, "...The people of New York now consider the beaver nothing more than a 50 lb cockroach". This societal view will come exactly 100 years after New Yorkers restocked beaver to restore an extirpated species.

The view expressed in this article is Bob Gotie's, Senior Wildlife Biologist for Region 7 with experience in central New York; it does not necessarily represent the vision from DEC.

ROCKY GROUND

By Tim Williams

Honest men are as common as flies on a dead hog. I picked the dead hog on purpose, because I don't mean to make common honesty smell any sweeter than it really is. You can just as well say that honesty is as scarce as daffodils in December. One point of view is as true as the other.

Which side you take depends on how picky you want to be about what's honest. I've ruminated some on this, because it's a concern that naturally arises when you deal with either loggers or lawyers; after thirty odd years of dealing with both breeds I've concluded that truth, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder.

Now any logger reading this is already outraged: loggers like to consider themselves straight and true as tall timber, every man a thirty foot trunk with no branches. And he's never dealt with the law without finding out that words didn't mean what he thought they did: that makes the law a slippery jungle, in his eye, with lawyers sneaking around half hidden by the twisting vines: now you see him, now you don't. So when I say your ordinary logger is no more, no less honest than your common lawyer you can almost smell the logger's hackles rising up.

You'd agree, no doubt, on the extreme cases. I've known lawyers I wouldn't trust to mail a letter, fellows who wouldn't flinch while billing you a thousand dollars to collect your five hundred dollar claim. Cost of justice, they'd say. A lawyer who once owned our house, right up here on Summer Hill, is sitting in jail this very moment, I believe, after a near world-record pilferage of trust funds. One of your own neighbors, he was.

And I've known loggers I wouldn't allow in my woodlot wearing hob-nailed boots, much less driving a log truck or a skidder. Some are here today, gone tomorrow: they'll go through your woods like a hurricane, sell the logs and be gone, hiding in deep timber ten counties away while they count your money. You may never see it. And don't go out to look at your trees after he's gone: you'll weep. Right here he ran his skidder up and down your creek, gouged the banks and left it full of branches and broken butts. Over there his skid road has turned into a sluice for every rain, running topsoil into the creek and off to clog Owasco Lake. Everywhere you look you'll see barked trees that might have been good timber in ten years: lacerated by log chains or smashed by a skidder wheel. And slash all over the place, good logs split by careless falling, young trees dropped



"A condition ripe for controversy"

and left on the ground. Hurry-up logging, with dollar-signs in its eyes.

But wait: there are loggers out there who are so honest it hurts to look at them, mirrors in sunlight. I'd do business with Bill, or Tony, or Tim, on a handshake — just so I was sure we both had the same thing in mind. But there's the rub. Your honest logger knows what he means. He's a straight-grained fellow who knows his trade. When he looks over your woods he knows what he wants to cut, and where he'll put his haul roads, and how he's going to spread the slash. I don't mean that he plans every tree — just that he knows his own standards: he knows what he considers a good job, and that's what he's going to give you.

But one honest logger and another honest logger may well have different ideas about your timber. What one man considers sound timber management may look like a heavy cut to another. A clean job in one man's practice may mean a wood full of slash to another. And the landowner, unless he's sold a lot of timber before, doesn't see the picture that either logger carries in the back of his mind.

A condition ripe for controversy. The logger puts his intention in what he believes to be plain, simple, clear language. Maybe he puts it in writing, maybe he just says it. The landowner fits his own picture to it: it seems to fit, so he signs the contract, or shakes the logger's hand. A deal. The logger brings up his chain saw and goes to work.

Some nice evening, couple of weeks later, the landowner takes a stroll out to see what's been happening in his woods. Disaster! This is not what he pictured when the logger told him what he was going to do.

Enter the lawyer, called by landowner (or, could be, by logger, after landowner

put a lock on the gate). And here begins logger's frustration, and his conviction that lawyer is a lying thief, that all lawyers are lying thieves. Because lawyer is going to tell logger that what logger thought of as plain English doesn't mean what logger thought it meant, and even still thinks it means, because logger is not a man who changes his mind easily.

Well, your ordinary honest lawyer won't be insulted: he understands logger's frustration, and he's used to vilification — it goes with the trade. But lawyer knows already that language is slippery: a word can conjure as many images as there are listeners, and a whole sentence has infinite potential for discord. Mostly, lawyer knows, people understand language to mean what they want it to mean.

Of course, that includes lawyer himself, who is surely no closer to perfection than logger. Lawyer's language may be a little more complicated, because words are his stock in trade and he deals in them every day. But complexity can be at least as ambiguous as simplicity, so lawyer will likely find the meaning he wants if his desire is strong enough.

That puts the logger and the lawyer on the same level platform. Intention is what counts, and intention is secret. Maybe logger — or lawyer — meant what he said but didn't say it very well. If that's it I'll call him honest — provided, of course, that he doesn't change his intention when it turns unprofitable, or when somebody comes along with a better offer. If he does that you can call him a crook, and I won't argue. Doesn't matter what he does for a living.

Tim is a former director of NYFOA and regularly writes a column for The Moravia Republican-Register from which this was borrowed or filched. (Apr. 29, 1992, Vol. 129, No. 18.)

Test Your Knowledge of Woodlot Logging Practices



This bridge was required by DEC permit (white) to cross Public Access trout stream easement (yellow) of NYFOA member Roger Krieger. The cost of the bridge was subtracted from the value of the stumpage of mostly low grade trees. Just over Roger's upstream property line is an active beaver site. The beaver is obliged to totally rebuild its dam each year, no DEC permit required.

By David W. Taber

The farm woodlot is one asset that may not yield what it can. Even short-term logging income may prove to be less than appropriate and long term economic benefits can be reduced by current activities.

Evaluate your knowledge of logging a woodlot for income. Which of these statements do you think is true or false?

1. It is a good forest management technique if a logger cuts only trees above a certain diameter, such as 15-inches on the stump.

2. Workers' Compensation insurance coverage is unnecessary if an independent, sole-proprietor logger agrees to log your woodlot in return for giving you 30 to 50 percent of the mill-delivered price.

3. It must be a good deal if a logger, during his first negotiations with a landowner, offers what appears to be a high price for stumpage.

4. If the volume of trees is known, then any differences in prices offered to the

landowner by different loggers must be because the loggers are trying to rip-off the landowner.

5. It is easy to continually grow crops of white pine, white oak, and white ash from seedlings to maturity by using the selection system of silviculture.

6. Black cherry and red oak trees cannot be naturally regenerated, if their viable seeds exist in the soil, by using the clear-cutting method of forest management.

7. If a logger, with a landowner's authorization, wants to cut a line tree (that is, one which is growing on a property boundary so that part of the main stem is on the land of an adjacent property owner) he can legally do so as long as he cuts no more than half of all such trees bordering a woodlot.

The preceding seven statements are all false. Here's why:

1. Diameter-limit cutting of trees is only a method of selecting trees for harvest. It does not take into consideration the quality of all the trees in the forest. It also does not consider the ability of selected trees or residual trees to grow well. Therefore, diameter-limit cutting is not normally considered a good forest management practice.

2. The Worker's Compensation Law provides protection for employees and subcontractors. Section 56 of the law makes landowners other than farmers liable for worker compensation insurance for loggers on their property. A farmer may be subjected to a lawsuit if a logger is hurt on his or her property during logging. Therefore it is recommended by the State Insurance Fund (a quasi-state agency that provides workers compensation insurance) that farmers carry such insurance on log-

gers. Reports indicate that upon audit, a farmer who sold stumpage or had logging done on shares is required to pay the worker's compensation insurance premium (on an uninsured logger) to their insurance carrier.

3. It is a common practice for businesses to make initial purchase offers that are lower than they actually would be willing to pay. The recommended procedure for determining the best possible price for timber and logging practices is to have competitive bidding handled by a professional consultant forester whose services are retained by the landowner.

4. Estimates of grades of logs actually have more impact on the price of the timber than does the volume, and the particular markets that an individual logger or timber processing business has will significantly affect what can be paid to the landowner for the timber.

5. The silviculture selection system maintains an uneven-aged stand of trees. In a woodland, trees of different age classes are maintained by vegetative manipulation, which during logging removes mature and immature trees to provide sunlight needed to support the development of new reproduction on the forest floor and the growth of residual immature trees. The selection system favors shade tolerant trees, such as American beech and sugar maple. In contrast, the sunlight demanding species such as white pine, white oak, and white ash will not easily grow from seedling to maturity in the shadow of mature trees.

6. The clear-cutting method of regenerating a forest stand provides full sunlight to the forest floor. This benefits shade intolerant species resulting in the germination and growth of tree seeds, as well as grasses and bushes. Black cherry and red oak can be re-established by natural regeneration through the process of clear-cutting, if their viable seeds exist in the soil.

7. Line trees, according to opinions of the New York State Attorney General belong jointly to adjacent landowners. Therefore the cutting of property boundary trees, those that straddle property lines, should not be authorized without the agreement of adjacent landowners.

For more information on maximizing profits from logging a woodlot ask your Cornell Cooperative Extension agent for a copy of *Farmers Woodlots Yield Losses*, by David W. Taber.

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Ask A Forester: "Eliminate" -- The Bone of Contention

The letter from Norman Evans on facing page asks several questions and voices concern over the suggested woodland ethic, "No animal or plant species is eliminated" (WOODLAND STEWARD, February and May issues, 1992). I want to thank Mr. Evans for his interest and concern which allows further elaboration on this important subject.

EXOTIC SPECIES



In suggesting that no animal or plant species be eliminated through our woodland practices, my intent was to include only indigenous or native species, not introduced or exotic ones. For example, I have no concern about totally eradicating the introduced gypsy moth. I will assume that exotic pests have no "... useful or intrinsic value to other species or elements in nature" (please refer to "Response: WOODLAND ETHICS", May issue of WOODLAND STEWARD). At least, our native species were not initially dependent on exotic organisms.

CONTROL VS ELIMINATE



Also, my intent was to include only those organisms that are considered beneficial to man or society. But how is "beneficial" to be measured or defined? Its meaning will have wide variation depending on the viewpoint or objective of the individual at a given time. For example, "pigweed" or "lambquarters" is considered a pest weed by many gardeners and farmers, yet may be cooked to produce a very tasty spinach-like dish. It can be "eliminated" with herbicide or cultivation on certain sites where it competes with other more desirable plants. But just try to

"totally eradicate" it -- the tiny seeds of this annual are ubiquitous -- eliminate it on one square-foot of garden or field one year, and you will find it in the same square-foot the next year. Many "weeds" or pest plants behave in a similar way -- it is impractical or uneconomical to attempt eradication. Rather, we are controlling the organism, whether it be plant or animal pest, in our attempt to produce a bigger, better, more desirable crop. Note how this also applies to thinning a dense, pole-size stand of trees -- you are "eliminating" certain lower quality species or stems to favor, or increase the growth on, the best trees in the stand.

Let's take another common example of a pest species that slows the production of trees on many sites in the Adirondacks -- fern. It blankets the ground with dense shade, inhibiting the germination or growth of tree seedlings until the fern begins to break up, which may take 15 years. The landowner practicing forestry as a business cannot afford this long regeneration lag; therefore, he may apply an herbicide to control it. As long as the herbicide is properly applied, this is good forestry practice, and the "do not eliminate (totally eradicate)" ethic has not been violated.

RARE AND ENDANGERED



Now, let's assume this particular fern is very rare and endangered -- you may have the last remaining patch of this particular species in the Adirondacks. What was formerly a "weed" is now a very valuable species, both aesthetically and commercially. (You could charge fern lovers an entry fee to see it!) Even without its commercial value, would you consciously spray it to regenerate another stand of black cherry more rapidly? I don't think so; in fact, most woodland lovers would try to protect and extend the

patch. This underlies the concept of the "do not eliminate" ethic. If we knowingly or consciously attempt to "eliminate" a truly endangered native plant or animal, we have violated the "ethic". As forest owners, it is my opinion that we must have concern about, and a commitment to protect, endangered species. We can argue whether the organism is truly endangered or not, whether some environmentalists are just using it as a guise "... to stop all tree cutting and eliminate all hunting, fishing and trapping" as you suggest. If a reasonable and thorough scientific investigation indicates that a species is endangered to the point of possible extinction, the ethic and the law (Endangered Species Act) require the forest owner to protect it. We can argue the point to doomsday, but I feel there is a moral obligation involved that must be recognized by landowners. Our society has determined that certain ethical values may transcend economic values.

MIS-MANAGEMENT



The "do not eliminate" ethic has another dimension we have not discussed, and one example can explain it. In this case, an endangered species is not involved, but lack of silvicultural knowledge could perpetuate it. For this example, we start with a mature/overmature black cherry stand with advance regeneration (understory) of sugar maple/beech seedlings and scattered pole-size trees. The cherry is harvested for sawlogs in the spring, just after foliage expansion, leaving

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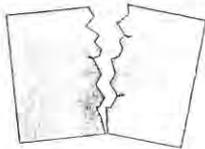
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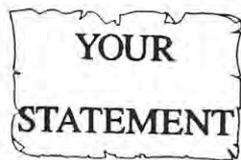
only poles and seedlings of maple/beech. Stump sprouting of cherry is poor, and the advance regeneration of maple/beech rapidly dominates the stand. The few cherry seedlings/sprouts that do survive the first few years are suppressed by the maple/beech poles. A valuable cherry stand has been replaced by lower-value maple/beech. Very likely, the future commercial value of the stand has been depressed. If the surrounding stands are mostly maple/beech, then the woodland may approach a monoculture, reducing biological diversity. A black cherry stand has been "eliminated" through ignorance and the "ethic" has been violated. Unless the forest owner desired a maple/beech future for this stand, the result is a loss from every standpoint. This is not an uncommon occurrence.

REVISION



We can improve the reader's understanding of this ethical concept by revising the original statement, "No animal or plant species is eliminated." I'll initiate the revision by "eliminating" the contentious word "eliminated": *Maintain (control or manage) plant and animal communities for forest owner objectives while protecting endangered native species and habitats.*

Can you prepare a better statement? Give it a try, send me your thoughts, and we'll publish the best ones in the WOODLAND STEWARD.



Mail your comments or statement to WES SUHR, RR#1 BOX 59B, OSWEGATCHIE, NY, 13670.

Too Many Weeds?

Dear Friends:

The February 1992 issue of the WOODLAND STEWARD urged members to respond to the article, "Woodland Ethics." In the May/June edition of "FOREST OWNER" is an article on "Biological Diversity." My concern ties both articles together.

One of the suggested points in the ethics article is: "No animal or plant species is eliminated." The basic view of biological diversity should be maintained and that no form of plant or animal life be eliminated.

Are there limits? How far do you carry this? Can we start preaching this without boundary definitions? Could this not be a weapon for the multi-pronged movement to stop all tree cutting and eliminate all hunting, fishing and trapping? Where do you start and stop?

I was a dairy farmer for 20 years. If I wanted corn in a field, I cultivated or sprayed for weeds and tried to raise the best field of corn that I could. I could have had more diversity if I had planted pumpkins and beans along with the corn but that was not my aim. The raccoons and deer gave me more diversity than I wanted. I don't mind them in my woods, but too many deer there and the next log harvest has heart rot. To keep my corn field in the best fertility, I rotated with oats and legumes, again spraying for weeds in the oats, fertilizing as needed, and increasing the ultimate carrying capacity of my land.

As a Tree Farmer, I'm happy to leave snags in the woods for animals and birds, but my beech is dying. I might better take it out, especially since the turkeys are doing fine on black cherry pits, among other things. On the edge of my woods are some old, diseased beech trees that I will leave as long as they produce beechnuts, but nothing in my woods is going to suffer if all my beech is gone, except the organ-

ism that is killing them. To follow the idea of biological diversity to its logical end, I suppose the organism that kills the beech should be protected. How about gypsy moths? Or porcupines? Where is the line? The idea has dangers.

Nature will not let us protect everything in a biological diversity program. Climax forest will take over, with multi-stages which will see different plants, birds, animals and insects.

I may want to speed the process toward the climax group of species, or I may want to hold back or set back the climax process. To speed it up, I could eliminate the remaining plants/trees that are holding up the changes, or I could hold back forest succession by clear-cutting a strip or a clearing of small size to keep a habitat more favorable for grouse, but I will only do this where nature, in reclaiming what was farm land for a short time, has a batch of poor stems or species.

Should we fault Nature for not maintaining biological diversity? I use my forest for far more than the saw-timber it will produce. I love the woods and love diversity. I use my camera, I go for walks, I bird watch, and I also hunt, fish and trap. BUT, I am worried about the concept of biological diversity in the wrong hands or without controls.

Do you weed your garden? I want to be able to weed my forest. There is a place for weeds, but not in your lettuce. There is a place for weed trees, but not where a crop tree will grow better. I'm not sure where to put the porcupines.

Sincerely,
Norman B. Evans
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New York's Master Forest Owner/Coverts Program Update

by Gary R. Goff

New York's first corps of Master Forest Owners appears to be well on the way to accomplishing the goal of encouraging and motivating neighboring forest owners to practice sound forest management principles. As of February of 1992, at least 11 Master Forest Owners (MFO's) had visited a total of 42 neighbors who owned 5,142 forested acres. With the arrival of spring, the number of contacts is likely double February's total as I have since heard from many not included in the first tally.

Nearly all solicited and unsolicited reports from people involved with the program have been very positive. I've heard from over 75% of the 30 MFO's and all have expressed their confidence in their ability to assist forest owners. Consulting and public foresters who have received referrals resulting from the program have noted that forest owners who have been visited by MFO's tend to be quite knowledgeable about forest management and have well-defined ownership objectives. This year's program will be evaluated as of September via a mail survey of MFO's, forest owner contacts and professional resource managers who have been involved with the program.

MFO's have shown a lot of ambition and innovation in their "work". Several have been speakers at workshops sponsored by County Cooperative Extension Associations. I know one gave a presentation at a Regional Forest Practice Board meeting, and yet another has a series of "woods walks" scheduled this summer on his property. Many have focused their efforts on promoting consideration of the Stewardship Incentives Program (SIP). This cost/share forest management program has been extremely popular in the State with over a million dollars already allocated. However, recent rescission of FY92 Forest Legacy Funding (SIP) will have unforeseen impact on the administration of the program.

Bob Gibbs, MFO from Chemung County, (with his wife as publisher) produced the first issue of the COVERTS NYMFO newsletter which is intended to act as a conduit for information and ideas among MFO's. For example, at least one MFO tries to accompany his regional DEC public forester on woods walks with forest owner referrals. Another good suggestion was to have the MFO's give the forest owner contacts copies of the "Background



New York Master Forest Owners practicing their compass reading skills at the 1991 training workshop at Cornell's Arnot Forest.



New York Master Forest Owners listening to Consulting Forester Mike DeMunn explain the silvicultural practices used on a stand at Cornell's Arnot Forest.

Information" sheet which contains information about the forest owner's property and objectives. At the forest owner's discretion, such information can help get communication off to a sound start when later working with professional resource managers.

Funding for the 1992-93 NY Master Forest Owners/COVERTS Program appears to be assured. The program will be expanded this year to cover the entire state and certify 60 new volunteers via two regional 3-day workshops in September 1992. I currently have over 100 MFO candidates but will be accepting nominations through early July. So, if you know of any exemplary, experienced and outgoing forest owners (including yourself) please mail their names and addresses to me and I'll send them an application.

NY's Master Forest Owner/COVERTS Program is funded by The Ruffed Grouse Society, the NY Forest Stewardship Program, and The National Wild Turkey Federation with cooperation from Cornell Cooperative Extension, NYS Department

of Environmental Conservation and the NY Forest Owners Association.

For more information about the program or if you wish to nominate a candidate, contact Gary Goff, MFO/COVERTS Program Director, Fernow Hall, Cornell University, NY 14853, (607)255-2824.

NOTICE

May 21, 1992, the House and Senate passed a compromise federal spending reduction bill (rescission act) by a substantial margin. The U.S. Forest Service lost \$19 million of its anticipated funds and hence the FY92 Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP) monies will not be available. The effect of this 'political posturing' by the Congress vs the Administration on the environment of the State of New York, will reduce the funds available to private owners by one half, much of the lost money is already promised to cooperators.

HONOR ROLL

We plan to make this a regular feature of the Forest Owner. The purpose is to give credit to those members who are out there acquiring new members for NYFOA, a much needed activity, as that is an important part of our mission.

So, hats off to the following who have brought in new members from the beginning of the year to the end of May: The Allegheny Foothills Chapter led by Bob Child's six members has been very active with a total of 12. What is their secret?

Karen Anderson, AFC	1
Harry Bartle	2
Albert Brown, AFC	1
Ron Cadieux	1
Bob Childs, AFC	6
Bob and Audrey Childs, AFC	1
Wilma Csont, AFC	1
Tom Ellison, CNY	2
Mike Greason, CDC	1
John Hastings, SAC	1
Bob Howard, NAC	1
Art Kibbe, AFC	1
Mary McCarty, WFL	1
Pat McGlew, TIO	1
Billy Morris, WFL	1
Jim Paine, Sr., AFC	1
Darrel Rippeteau, THR	1
Sanford Smith, Warren, PA	1
Dale Schaefer, WFL	2
Wes Suhr, NAC	4
Dennis Wilson	1

There have been other sources of new members such as the Woodland Steward which has brought in 47 new members so far this year! However, the Honor Roll is designed to highlight the efforts of the individual. Let me know if there are questions or if you detect an error.

*Submitted by President Stuart McCarty,
Chairman of the Membership Committee.*



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Featured Speakers & Topics

with David W. Taber, Cornell Cooperative Extension, as moderator

1. Neil F. Woodworth, Esq., Counsel & Conservation Director, Adirondack Mountain Club, Lake George, NY, “Interests of Environmental Community in Forests and Forest Industry”
2. David A. Skeval, Chief Forester, Cotton-Hanlon, Inc., Cayuta, NY, (Southern Tier/Central NY in Schuyler Co.), “Challenges of Owning Commercial Forest Land”
3. Wayne W. Cooper, Regional Forester, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (Western area), Olean, NY (Cattaraugus Co.), “Changes: The Uses of Public Forests”
4. Aaron I. Robinson, President, Robinson Saw Mill Works, Barryville, NY (90 miles North West of NYC in Sullivan Co.), “Public Perceptions, Small Private Woods, and Laws”
5. Harvey D. Carter, Jr., (Attorney) Visiting Professor, Department of Natural Resources, New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY (Tompkins Co.), “Making the Law (Regarding Forest-Use) Work for You”
6. Refreshments, Meet the Speakers, and Socialize. Adjourn 10:00 p.m.

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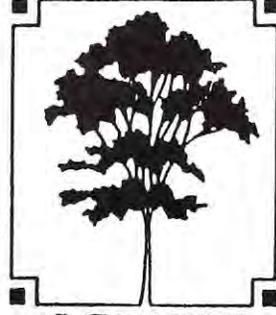
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Summary of Evolving Long Range Plans of NYFOA

The following is an excerpt of information presented at the Annual Membership meeting on April 25, 1992 by John C. Marchant, Chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee.

1. GENERAL DIRECTION AND FOCUS OF NYFOA CONSIDERED SATISFACTORY WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES.
 - A. Broaden goals to meet more member's objectives.
 - B. Emphasize use of:
 1. Education.
 2. Stewardship.
2. NYFOA SHOULD REMAIN FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT IN SUPPORT OF BASE OPERATIONS.
 - A. Administrative costs.
 - B. Publication of the "Forest Owner".
 - C. Financial support of chapters.
 - D. Selected "Projects" may be financed through solicited donations. (Acquiring a Tax Exempt status as an educational organization will be necessary.)
3. THE "FOREST OWNER" IS A VITAL ASSET TO NYFOA.
 - A. The VALUE/COST of the magazine has already been increased appreciably since the beginning of 1992 and additional effective changes are under way.
4. NYFOA TO ESTABLISH AN INFORMATION DATABASE ACCESSIBLE THROUGH A 1-800 NUMBER.
 - A. This database will concentrate on "where to find" information and is expected to be functioning in 1992.
5. AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR ITS EQUIVALENT IS NECESSARY TO CONTINUE THE INTERACTION BETWEEN NYFOA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FORESTRY/ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY.
 - A. This position provides continuity across elected officer terms and a variety of outside organizations. A replacement for the current Director needs to be found by 1993.
6. NYFOA TO HOLD A WORKSHOP FOR CHAPTER CHAIRPERSONS AND NEWSLETTER EDITORS IN 1992.
 - A. The current and future strength of NYFOA is clearly coming from our 13 local chapters and affiliates and their programs and publications. Because of their state wide distribution a workshop to "get to know each other and exchange ideas" is considered valuable.

WOODLOT CALENDAR

July 4: CFA Wetlands Workshop Call 914-586-3054

July 11: CAY IPM Log Scaling and Grading Workshop; DEC Jim Peek, Locke; (315) 497-1266.

July 18: AFC Picnic 10 a.m. at David Mowatt's, Franklinville. Bring a dish to pass and meat to barbecue. Call 716-557-2529

July 23: LHC Legislative Bus Tour. Stony Kill Farm, Wappinger's Falls Woytuck Tree Farm, Wassaic--J & J Log & Lumber Co., Dover Plains. Refreshments and buses provided, To Pre-register call 914-831-3109.

July 25: CFA, Round Barn Festival, Halcottsville. Call 914-586-3054.

July ?: CNY, Daylong program at Heiberg Forest, woodlands management and pond building. Call 315-682-9376.

Aug. 1: CFA Margaretville Street Fair. Call 914-586-3054.

Aug. 14-16: THRIFT Stewardship booth at WOODSMEN'S FIELD DAYS in Boonville. Call 315-788-5920. CFA will be represented also call 914-586-3054.

Aug. 20: CAY 6 PM, Dish to Pass Picnic, Ponds, Hatfield's. (315) 497-1398.

Aug. 22: AFC J. August Woodswalk, Ischua. Call 716-557-2529.

Aug. 22: SAC Tour of the Anthony Conte Farm, Hickory Hill Road, Salem, Wildlife Habitat (Grouse) & recreation in a Forest Management Plan. Call 518-747-7230

Oct. 9, 10: NYFOA Fall Meeting, Cornell's Arnot Forest.