



# THE VOLUNTEER

*A newsletter for Master Forest Owner Volunteers who give their time not for financial gain but for the benefit of neighbor woodland owners and their forests.*

www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/mfo

## Winter Trails

*by Mike Valla, '93, Co-editor of The Volunteer, graduate of the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell.*

The morning star glittered brightly in the cold winter sky. It had been a half-sleepless night and I tossed restlessly in anticipation of daybreak. The old clapboard house seemed eerily still and the little brook outside my bedroom window seemed silent, too. The tall pines along its bank stood motionless and barely visible in the first light, their branches still hefting the snow-load from the winter storm that passed. The ridgeline to the west gradually became visible, its timber bare and lifeless. The old snow shoes were still hanging from the rafters in the basement, not touched since the early spring before, and I hurriedly grabbed them along with the ancient ax that my grandfather once used. *(continued page 5)*

**January, 2001**

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## Forestry Forum

### Timber Trespass or Theft?

*By Art Harris '93, Co-editor of The Volunteer*

My view of the topic of timber theft has been shaped by a personal experience that may have some lessons for others. I'm sure most (all?) absentee woodlot owners worry a bit that someone may take advantage of the apparent lack of owner attention and "sample" the trees for their own benefit.

Here's my story: It was a nice sunny day in August 1998 and Tim, a co-worker, and I were visiting my 41-acre woodlot in northern Saratoga County. Tim lives on a 10-acre homesite and was interested in seeing my woodlot. Of course, I enjoy any excuse to visit the woods and to show someone this beautiful spot. We started at the entrance gate, unlocked the chain and drove in aways on the woods road crafted in a 1985 harvest and kept clean of regrowth since. I explained how that harvest was set up by the state foresters and contracted by me to a local logger/marketer. We walked deeper into the woods, passing through the areas cut and observed the regrowth and general absorption of all the slash back into the ground.

**The Volunteer** welcomes submissions to The *Forestry Forum*. Space is provided to express views that offer interesting perspectives dealing with forest stewardship and management. Contributions of up to 1000 words are appreciated.

The woods road passes two headers, about one-half acre each which we had cleared to bare dirt at the close of the harvest. In spring 1986 we planted several hundred Christmas trees in the headers and almost all survived. The Scotch Pines are far ahead of the Douglas Firs in height and heft.

Our walk then took us beyond the harvested area and towards the back line of the lot, where the land slopes up sharply and the trees find it hard to grow on the ledgey ground. As we angled across the back and approached the northwest corner of my rectangular woodlot, I started to get a funny feeling – it's way too light at the corner; something's changed back there. I'm sure many of you know just what I mean.

I was right – the corner was practically in full sunlight at 3 o'clock in the afternoon because a number of trees along the western boundary of the lot were missing!

My first thought was that some loggers (a neighbor?) had taken a few big pines and a couple of oaks on the sly. The corner is 1700 feet in from the road and the neighboring lot was all but clear cut in 1984, the year after I bought my lot. Those harvesters were scrupulous about the boundary and even left trees rather than get too close.

Tim and I had an exciting afternoon surveying the situation and attempting to establish the extent of my loss. My lot has clear corner stakes with orange heads and had good ribbons marking the boundary lines when I bought it. Unfortunately, 15 years had pretty much eliminated the ribbons, but the corners were still good. I always take a copy of my survey map with me into the woods for walks like this and we used the map to mark a new line down the western boundary.

It looked like six to ten trees had been cut on my property, with tops left 60 to 100 feet in. This did not look good at all. I thanked Tim for his help and we left for home with me quite angry, you can be sure.

After talking the situation over with my wife, Judy, I took her advice and decided to return to the lot during the week after work and see if the neighbors knew anything about wood harvest operations in the area. At the nearest neighbor to the west, I found that they knew nothing about any recent harvests and had no suggestions about where to look next. I did finally get to know them though, something I should have done long before, of course.

Next I approached the community of camps across the road from the woodlot west of mine. I knew that the camp owner association had bought the neighboring lot after the 1984 harvest to curtail home building in the area. At the first camp I approached they said I should talk to their president, Rex. He turned out to be a cordial, older gentleman who calmed me down immediately and explained that the association had contracted a reputable forest management and lumber harvest company to look over their timberlands of about 200 acres and carry out an appropriate harvest. Their objective was to get some money to offset taxes and to improve the woodlands.

He gave me a name and number to call and promised that he would make sure I got a satisfactory answer to my concerns. I assured him that I was still pretty upset that I was missing some of my best trees and had not been notified of any harvest along my land boundary. Not the way they should have been doing business, nosir!

My contact with the management company was equally cordial and we set a date to look over the situation together. Before that date though, I returned to the lot and very carefully attempted to run the western boundary of my lot again,

starting at the road and working back in. I got two surprises right away. First, the county had rebuilt the road a year or so before and, apparently, eliminated the concrete corner post without replacing it in any way. Second, there were ribbons (new) tied to tree limbs that started some 40 or 50 feet down the road from my idea of the roadside corner. (Other landmarks clearly marked on my survey map, e.g., a section of stone wall and a couple of steel stakes on the property line a few hundred feet in from the road, gave me the corner location.)

When the company representative and I met at the lot in a few days, he explained that he had marked the trees to be cut according to a line he ran from the maps he had. He did have trouble finding the roadside corner, but struck a line into the trees from a (supposed) property line across the road. This put the line on a slightly different angle than I assumed from my reading of the map, so the area by the northwest corner “gave” some trees to my neighbor. The ribbons in the trees all the way back to the interior corner confirmed this. He agreed to rerun the boundary line using my map and my interpretation of the roadside corner location.

At our final meeting in the woods later, we found that I had over reacted on my estimate of the number of trees taken on my lot. His loggers had been very sloppy in leaving tops in my woodlot and knocking down young trees. We agreed that they had cut one of my 24-inch pines and two similar boundaryline trees. We valued them as three, 16-foot log trees each and worth \$100 a piece. He also agreed to give me \$100 for the damage to the young trees and general shambles in the area. This gave me \$300 for damages in this incident that I chose to call timber trespass rather than timber theft.

*What did I learn from this incident?*

- Mark the boundaries of your woodlot clearly and renew the marks regularly.
- Walk the boundaries of your woodlot every once in a while, not just the pretty paths; you may be surprised by what you find.
- Meet all your neighbors so they will be more inclined to let you know when they are planning a harvest.
- Don't jump to the worst possible conclusion at the outset of discovering trees cut and gone from your land.
- I was fortunate to be dealing with a landowner and a management company that wanted to do the right thing.

## Utilization of Threatened Trees

By Jane Geisler '92

A volunteer Appalachian Trail crew constructed a 54-foot bridge over Duell Hollow Brook in Dutchess County on two weekends this fall. The wooly adelgid insect is creeping northward threatening large hemlocks near the brook. Therefore these trees were cut and used in the bridge construction. Several winches were employed to haul the logs in place after the bark was stripped.

Chain saws were the only motorized equipment used. Even the bark was utilized, when after a month the bark strips were breakable by hand. Several teams of young people from the Youth Resources Development Corporation and BOCES broke up the bark and placed the chips on muddy sections of the Appalachian Trail.

## Team Up With Master Gardeners

By Jerry Michael '95

I would like to pass along an idea that has resulted in several MFO visits during the past year. Cornell Coop. Ext. in Broome County operates a "Horticultural Hotline" 3 days a week from May through Oct., and one day a week during the "off" season. I volunteered to help with this effort last Fall. I received a lot of useful free training (mostly in conjunction with training being provided to Master Gardner candidates), and have been covering the hotline one morning each week. It is interesting and fun and, when I don't have the answer, I draw on the considerable CCE resources and call the party back. Sometimes, after you have dealt with the caller's problem with carpenter ants or tomato blight, you find out that they have a 40-acre woodlot out back that some logger has been hasseling them about. I have made 3 visits year-to-date from such contacts, plus 2 more referrals from other "hotline" volunteers.

In addition, my MFO training and knowledge of resources has allowed our hotline to deal more effectively with silvicultural questions, whether they pertain to the landscape or forest environment. I strongly recommend this program to any MFO who has broad horticultural interests and the time to participate. It's a good "foot in the door" with forest owners, and an opportunity to build your relationship with your County CCE office.

## Increasing MFO Contacts While Cementing the Partnership Between CCE and NYFOA

By Jill Cornell '93

When MFOs are not out walking the woods with interested woodlot owners, they can help drum up new contacts, and boost the forest management information outreach

with an appointment to their County Extension Office. There are now five MFOs in Rensselaer County. We scheduled a visit when four of us could all be there. The Executive Director, Horticulture and Cropland agents were there too. Why the horticulture agent? She/he is responsible for Master Gardener Program, and a good link for publications and client leads from the question phone calls to Master Gardeners that relate to forestry information. We have also arranged to have the "Call Before You Cut" brochure enclosed with the CCE Newsletter from all Capital - Area CCE Offices.

Some of the CCE offices know there is a Program, but they haven't gotten in the habit of using it. We need to keep telling them that we exist. We need to "sell" our services to them. To do that we needed to present our services and the benefits to the county CCE office.

1. We told them that our county is 62% forested, and that 85%\* of those forests are privately owned. That means there are **thousands of potential extension clients** who need information about managing their woodlots. Probably all of their current farmer clients have woodlots, but they probably do not begin know the value of their woodlots with today's increased timber values. A cost-free way to begin to serve these potential clients is to use the free services of MFO graduates. CCE offices can report these services to their funders.
2. We explained the newly established partnership between CCE and NYFOA. Forest management articles are coming from Ithaca for use in every county CCE publication. NYFOA state and chapter events press releases will also be sent to county CCE newsletters to reach those woodlot owners who want to learn about managing their woodlots.
  - A. To make the partnership function we need to know the following:
    - 1) Name of publications/newsletters from each county?
    - 2) What counties does the publication cover?
    - 3) Number of times printed each year?
    - 4) Editor's name?
    - 5) Deadline times for acceptance (one or two months ahead)?
    - 6) Preferred method for submission of press releases (email, fax, hard copy)?
  - B. Forest management workshops can be planned in partnership with NYFOA, using CCE space. Other agencies (NRCS, County Soil and Water Districts, DEC), and other interested organizations (Audubon, Nature Conservancy, Land Trusts, Trout Unlimited, etc.) can

be partners also. The more partnerships, the more potential clients.

3. MFOs then contact the regional chapter of NYFOA to give them the information about where, when, to whom and how to submit press releases.

### **BINGO! Increased Outreach.**

\*These percentages are from USDA Forest Service statistics for NY State and will vary among counties. Gary will supply these stats if you e-mail him!

### **Congratulations MFO/COVERTS Class of 2000!**

*by Jill Cornell, '93*

I am sure that you had a wonderful time at the Arnot Forest training sessions, as did I back in '93. There was so much information, so many good learning exercises, such wonderful classmates. It is truly a time to remember. To remember all of that information, however, is a very, tall order, and that is why you brought home all those information packets. When you get home, you begin to wonder what to do first. You will make up your own list of activity priorities, but I do have a few suggestions.

1. **Please join New York Forest Owners Assoc.** (800-836-3566), and participate in your regional chapter. The magazine is full of interesting, informative, and practical articles. You will enjoy the programs, meet wonderful people who also love the forests of NYS, and you can participate in the chapter's activities. You can volunteer to be a part of the steering committee/board. Everyone has a special talent to contribute, and it will be fun for you to donate your talents.
2. **Please pay for your NYFOA membership through New York Woodland Stewards, Inc.** This corporation was established by NYFOA in 1998, and is a tax exempt organization. You pay for your dues, and can add any amount to it; **the added amount is tax deductible**, and will help NYWS to continue to support MFO/COVERTS Training and other educational programs. (Also: 800-836-4566)
3. **Visit your county Cornell Cooperative Extension office and NRCS/SWCD office (usually the same building), and the regional DEC office, to introduce yourself and tell them about your MFO training.** Bring the training agenda as a reference for you to discuss with your DEC Forester.

4. **Your outreach activities with NYFOA will be counted as MFO activities, so please list them on the annual reports.** If you do a publicity or press release to your local papers for a woodswalk on your property, you can factor in a large number of "contacts". If you do a woodswalk on your property, or some woods nearby, be sure to ask your County Extension Educator to be there too. Also arrange for your DEC Private Service Forester and a good Consulting Forester, to come along and talk too. The more speakers you have, the greater the attention of the audience, and the more of a network you will develop.

5. **Most of all, have fun doing the MFO outreach, and enjoy all the wonderful people you'll meet!** There are many ways you can contribute to the program. Find a niche that suits your available time, interests, and abilities. Please call any of us "old" graduates and/or Gary Goff with ideas, questions, complaints, etc.

**GOOD LUCK, and ENJOY!!!**

### **Focus On Personal Ministry: Eileen and Dale Schaefer- "Forest Stewardship, People and Trees, Partners in Time"**

*By: Renee Thornton, written for their church newsletter.*

Pulling into the driveway at 6017 County Road 37, in Canadice, the first thing one notices is an understated sign that simply reads, "Tree Farm". Continuing down the driveway one is aware of the lush greenness and vitality of the woodlands surrounding them. Upon approaching the house one will notice a sign hanging on the garage that reads, "Forest Stewardship, People and Trees, Partners in Time". Welcome to the home of Eileen and Dale Schaefer.

While sitting on the front deck enjoying the comfortable conversation of Eileen and Dale, I watched my sons playing around their pond, looking for the promised grass carp (Dale's natural answer to pond weed maintenance). We chatted while a welcome breeze kept the noonday sun from melting us and the hummingbirds' antics around the feeder enthralled us. Off to my left, the south end of the Schaefer home, was a natural habitat for pileated woodpeckers as witnessed by the large holes in the dead pine trees. Although this group of topped-off trees looked awkward to the eye, it is the Schaefer's way of rearranging nature rather than obliterating the trees that kept the low winter sun from their home. I am not sure when it hit me, but in that small amount of time shared with Eileen and Dale I knew without a doubt that God truly does create small slices of heaven right here on earth. God has given both Eileen and Dale a very personal ministry on behalf of the environment.

For nine years both Dale and Eileen have been active members of the, "New York Forest Owners Association", with Eileen chairing the Western Finger Lakes Chapter for a term of four years and Dale one year. It is a state organization that educates woodland owners on how to be good stewards of their land. The whole idea surrounding the organization is that if you can get people to manage their woodlands it is good for the overall ecosystem.

Since 1991, Dale has also been a member of the MFO/COVERTS Program. Dale was a member of the first graduating class (he smirks as he tells me it was just a 3-day class!).

In all, Dale and Eileen own 195 acres of land, of which 32 acres are at their home property. These 32 acres are a Certified NYS Tree Farm. To be certified, they explained to me, you must manage your forest for a wood product. This could be for timber, Christmas trees, pulp, firewood, and even furniture. The Schaefer's also have a strong interest in wildlife which also benefit from their forest management plans.

What Eileen and Dale explained is that quite often people are reluctant to cut down living trees. What people don't understand though, is that trees need to be cared for the same way you might care for your garden. For example, if pumpkins or cucumbers are planted too close together their growth will be stunted. The same is true for why gardeners need to thin out carrots and corn. If too many trees are competing for the same sunlight and soil nutrients they'll have the same struggle. Generally speaking, trees do not live forever, they grow old and die. If all our forests were old-growth forests we would lose some of our animal and bird species. When a forest grows old the forest floor becomes barren and deer and other animals lose their cover and food sources. Different species of wildlife depend on different stages of the forest to survive. Dale emphasized, "I don't like cutting down a tree anymore than the next person, however for a healthy forest it's imperative."

Eileen stated that she recently attended a NYFOA Workshop and learned that people's perceptions are very important. She said, "Many people think they cannot cut down a tree because there is a shortage of trees. In NY State this just isn't true. With the vast amount of farmland that has gone back into forest over the last few decades there is an abundance of trees in the state. The true challenge is learning how to manage them properly so that they are healthy forests for generations to come."

Dale advises, "Land owners need to be aware and educate themselves before selling timber off their land. Not everyone has your woodland's best interest at heart. There are many viable organizations that are willing to educate you regarding woodland management practices, including the MFO/COVERTS program."

Often there are no right or wrong answers when it comes to forest management, it all depends on your objectives and goals. For example, someone managing their forest for timber is going to manage it differently than someone who is managing theirs for recreation, or another who is managing theirs for maple syrup. No matter what your objectives or goals, there are those who are willing to help you so that generations from now may enjoy the same beauty of the woodlands as we do today.

*(continued from front page)* **Winter Trails**

The little trail cut into the pines and snaked its way through to the base of the mountain. The path switched back and forth, gradually reaching the ridgeline summit, ending at an open clearing on the opposite slope. It was created as a boyhood diversion from common summer activities; the mountaintop treefort served as hideaway for summer camping adventures.

A softwood stand edged the clearing and I had seen unmistakable signs of deer -yarding several days before. The hoof-trampling in the softwoods along the clearing indicated a sizeable number of Whitetails, and I was anxious to observe them from the vantagepoint of the treehouse.

The trail permitted relatively easy access to the yarding area, despite the knee-deep winter snows that blanketed the path. The walk that morning was pleasant, and the anticipation of sighting numerous deer added to the enjoyment.

The air was still cold despite the gradually rising sun and I waited for the deer to show. I never did see the deer that morning but I will never forget the hike along the trail that morning that occurred over 30 years ago in a simple boyhood year.

Hiking trails have always been a welcomed diversion and I still used them often in winter months. Constructing good hiking trails is certainly more of an art than I would have realized in those simpler times. The trail that I constructed those many years ago was basic and unsophisticated and I doubt the project adhered to any of the common suggested designs of our time. However, formal guidance in trail design that would have been welcome then is readily available now, from a variety of sources.

Trail construction is one item that is often mentioned when I meet with woodland owners. Designs may lack sophistication yet still serve a given function, whether it be hiking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing or as a means for accessing firewood. But there are certain useful principles that can aid the trail designer. Winter is a good time to begin thinking of trail design, and some of the actual preparation work can be accomplished, such as branch pruning and layout design. It's a good project to recommend to woodland owners.

*The Minnesota Extension Service, University of Minnesota*, has a great website, and publication, that gives good step-by-step information on trail construction. The document gives a 7-step approach to trail construction and discusses handling trail obstacles. It also addresses recommended trail standards. The information, including directions for purchasing a hard copy, is available at the following website: [www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/naturalresources/DD6371.html](http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/naturalresources/DD6371.html).

### **Notes from the Director, Gary Goff**

Greetings Volunteers!

I am extremely pleased to have this newsletter going out to you all, with minimum input from me! I thank Mike Valla and all the contributors for pulling it together. Your thoughts, experiences, and work are appreciated by all involved with the NY MFO/COVERTS Program. Please keep up the good work and write down items for the next newsletter scheduled for this spring. If you need forms, publications, flyers, MFO business cards, or anything else you think we can supply, please write or call Deanna, e-mail: [dlo3@cornell.edu](mailto:dlo3@cornell.edu), phone: 607-255-2814 or me, e-mail: [grg3@cornell.edu](mailto:grg3@cornell.edu), ph. 607-255-2824.

MFO Workshops. We will be conducting 3 regional refreshers this summer. Dan Anderson and Al Brown will be hosting the Western Refresher at their properties in Chautauqua County. Topics will include recent timber harvests and growing willow for "biomass" fuel. Jerry Michael is hosting the Eastern Refresher at his hunting club's property in Delaware County where he will show us a black cherry salvage harvest and review regeneration problems brought about by a combination of morning glory in the understory and deer browsing. We're still looking for a host and topic for the Northern Refresher. Let me know if you have any suggestions! I'll get the specifics out as soon as we finalize plans. The 2001 new volunteer training workshop will again be at the Arnot Forest, September 19 - 23. Please let me know if you have MFO candidates!

Year-end Summary Reports. The official count is in and.....the year 2000 was a record setting year! **Congratulations!** A total of 38 MFO volunteers reported 134 visits to neighbor forest owners who collectively owned 7,836 acres. That's 12 visits and over 100 acres more than in 1997! Jerry Michael (Broome County), topped the list with 15 visits; the dynamic dual of Doug Deuel and Jim Riles (Steuben County), came in second with 13 visits. Only 23 MFOs reported "Additional Outreach Activities", for a total of 227 activities, but the list is impressive! Joan Kappel reported 39 activities and

Dan Anderson reported 34. IF you are envious of the activity-level these exemplary volunteers maintain, give them a call to find out their "secrets to success". Of course it is impossible to say with any precision how many people were reached with the presentations, articles, letters to the editor, etc., but it was conservatively over 17,000. It's worthy to note, there were 75 reported events that involved multiple partner organizations and agencies.

I sincerely thank all who took the time to complete and mail back the reports. I still believe I only hear from half of the volunteers who are active, so I thank the silent ones out there also! Work left unreported is still good work, unfortunately it goes unrecognized from the administrative end. Several volunteers have told me they keep a sheet of paper next to the phone and thereby keep track of the "forestry" phone calls they make and receive. If you still have activities to report from 2000, please mail them in and I'll add them to the 2001 year. Let us know if you need report forms mailed to you, or you can download them off the MFO website. Thank you all!

Funding and Sponsors. The 2000 program year was the last where the NY Forest Stewardship Program was a sponsor. Those funds were essentially "pass-through" dollars from the US Forest Service as administered by DEC's Div. of Lands and Forests. The MFO/COVERTS Program benefited greatly from that support since its inception 10 years ago. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Mike Greason and Jerry Andritz for their unwavering support. Now we are in need of another substantial sponsor! I am hopeful that the NY Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation will be able to again be a sponsor as they were in the "early years". Current sponsors include: The Ruffed Grouse Society (the primary sponsor of all COVERTS Programs across the US), NY Woodland Stewards, Inc. (affiliate of NYFOA), and The Robert Wentorf Jr. Foundation (Rolf Wentorf of Rensselaer Co. is on the Board of Directors). This year we established a gift account at Cornell to receive private donations to the MFO Program. We are grateful to Ron Pedersen (Albany Co.) and Charlie and Sharon Wieder (Cattaraugus Co.) for their contributions and the fund raising efforts of Charlie and Sharon who held a raffle at their Sportsman's Club. Such funds allows me to buy more publications for distribution to the volunteers and will be the source for printing the "Call Before You Cut" brochures that we hope to supply all County CCE Associations to include with their county newsletters (refer to Jill Cornell's article, page 3).

MFO Listserve and Website. For those of you with e-mail and/or internet service, I encourage you to consider joining the MFO Listserve so that you may receive news,

information, and correspondence from fellow MFO volunteers and me. To join, just e-mail Diana Bryant at dlt5@cornell.edu and she will put you on the list. We probably average about 3 messages/week. The MFO/COVERTS Program also has a web site at [www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/mfo/](http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/mfo/) where you can find flyers, forms, agendas, membership listings, presentations, etc. on the program. It's well organized and user-friendly thanks to the efforts of Diana.

**NEW for Outreach Activities!** I am pleased to announce that we now have available for loan, to all volunteers, a 17-slide, 35-mm slide set, with script, that gives a general overview of the MFO/COVERTS Program. The presentation is designed for a 20-min. talk. If you would like to borrow a set for presentations, contact Deanna Owens. The presentation is viewable, as well as downloadable, from the MFO website (look in "Newsletters & more") as an MS PowerPoint '97 file. I wish to thank MFOs Paul O'Connor (Onondaga) and Don Ross (Oswego) for the incentive to develop the presentation, Deanna Owens for making up the PowerPoint file, and Diana Bryant for getting the presentation onto the website. Don Ross (with the assistance of DEC Forester John Clancy) used the PowerPoint file this fall before an audience of 83 forest owners at a workshop sponsored by the Oswego Soil & Water Conservation District.

We also have available, for loan, 2 new laminated-paper MFO posters that measure about 3' x 4'. These can be rolled up for easy and inexpensive mailing via cardboard mailing tubes. Thanks goes to Diana for working through the learning curve of the software program and my many revisions! If you are interested in using these posters or the standard poster boards, let Deanna know well in advance as scheduling gets pretty hectic and tight through the summer!

**Upcoming Events.** Cornell and Penn State Cooperative Extension (CE) will be co-sponsoring a satellite videoconference on the topic of "**Deer in Rural Woodlands**", scheduled for broadcast from Cornell on Sat. April 21. The workshop format will be similar to the program on forest economics broadcast last spring, that many of you viewed and/or facilitated at downlink sites across the state. The broadcast portion of the program will run from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Ideally, most sites will have a lunch on site and follow with an afternoon field exercise. Topics include: history of deer in the NE, assessing ecological and economic impacts, a forest owner's perspective, silvicultural strategies to minimize impacts, working with hunters to manage deer, and what is needed for change on a landscape scale. Please contact your county CE office *soon* to learn more about their plans for being a downlink site and offer your assistance with promotion and facilitating the event.

Cornell and Penn State CE will also be co-sponsoring "**Agroforestry and Forest Management Learning Community Workshop**" at the Arnot Forest on April 24-26. Professionals in the fields of forestry, Extension education, and agriculture will learn about new agroforestry/forestry techniques with the expectation that they will then return to their communities to conduct field trials of these techniques with local farmers and landowners. Topics will include: planting and cultivation of "sweet trees" for sugar maple syrup, sustainable timber production, ginseng, goldenseal, and mushroom production. Prior to the workshop, participants must identify two cooperating landowners with whom they will conduct agroforestry and forest management field trials following the workshop. Information and work will be facilitated through development of a listserv, a website, and additional workshops. If you are interested in learning more about the workshop and/or becoming a cooperating landowner, contact your county CE office and/or Sr. Extension Associate, Louise Buck at Cornell, e-mail: [leb3@cornell.edu](mailto:leb3@cornell.edu), phone: 607-255-5994.

**Forest Owner Visits.** As time, budget, and schedule will permit, I am always interested in traveling out to accompany MFO volunteers on forest owner visits. I've never been on a visit yet where I didn't have a good time and learn more about the interests of forest owners! Plus, I could always use some new action photos of the program! This fall I accompanied MFOs Jill Cornell and David Schmidt of Rensselaer County on a visit where a forest owner was concerned over an ongoing timber harvest. The bad news was that he had no contract and really no harvest objectives; the good news was he didn't have much sawtimber over which to be concerned. We were able to suggest some potential contacts for renting out abandoned farm fields and informed him of the USDA NRCS Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) through which he might be able to receive some advice and cost-sharing to help him reclaim fields for songbird habitat. Let me know, well in advance, if you have a visit scheduled over the next year where you'd like to have me along!

### **Saratoga Tree Nursery Seedling Sale**

*By Mike Valla, '93*



The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation operates the State Tree Nursery in Saratoga Springs to produce tree and shrub seedlings for conservation plantings on private and public lands. Plants may not be used for ornamental or landscaping purposes.

You can now place orders for a variety of conifer, wild-life, and hardwood species. *Requests are filled after January 1 in the order received.* Species sell out, so order early.

The prices are quite reasonable (250 white pines for \$35.00, 250 larch for \$42.00, 100 black walnut for \$56.00, 250 black locust for \$35.00).

**Order by Phone:** Orders for seedlings can be placed by calling 518-587-1120, Mon. - Fri. 8:00 AM to 5 PM. This is the recommended way to order since the operator will be able to answer questions or direct you to the proper office for information if you need help. Seedlings are shipped to one central location per county in April.

### **Deer are Targeted in New Cornell Extension Publication**

A new Cornell Cooperative Extension manual, "Managing White-Tailed Deer in Suburban Environments", joins other Cornell publications and videos on the subject. All are designed to help people across North America, in urban, suburban and rural areas, make informed choices that affect their livelihood, health and safety. The new 52-page manual reviews the biology of the white-tailed deer and discusses methods for reducing deer-related problems. Comprehensive strategies are outlined. Fencing and repellents are covered, as well as options for lowering deer populations and experimental techniques for deer fertility control. The authors are: Anthony DeNicola of White Buffalo, Inc. in Hamden, CT; Kurt VerCauteren, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture; Paul Curtis, Dept. of Natural Resources, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell Univ.; and Scott Hygnstrom, Univ. of Nebraska. "Managing White-Tailed Deer in Suburban Environments" 1471B245, (\$10.00) and the other publications and videos are available from the Cornell University Resource Center, 7 BTP, Ithaca, NY 14850, e-mail: [resctr@cornell.edu](mailto:resctr@cornell.edu). Prices include mailing within the U.S. New Yorkers; add 8% sales tax. These may also be available at Cornell Coop. Ext. offices located throughout NY and are described on the website: [www.cce.cornell.edu/publications/catalog.html](http://www.cce.cornell.edu/publications/catalog.html).

### **Forest Ecology and Silviculture**

The topics of "forest ecology" and "silviculture" are both broad and complex disciplines when studied alone.

What is even more daunting from a forest owner's perspective, is that they are inherently intertwined. A newly revised publication "Introduction to Forest Ecology and Silviculture", does a remarkable job of explaining to the reader what these disciplines are, and how and why they are linked. Such knowledge is indispensable to forest owners when contemplating sawtimber management. The book introduces practical concepts that will help woodland owners, loggers, and foresters both anticipate how the forest will react to change and control the environmental disturbance of timber harvesting. The author is Thom J. McEvoy, Assoc. Prof. and Extension Forester, Univ. of Vermont. This publication is the second edition and is now published by the Natural Resource, Agriculture, and Engineering Service (NRAES). The 96-page revision addresses the nationwide audience of woodland owners, loggers, foresters, forest managers; and policy makers.

To order via the mail, request publication NRAES-126 and send a check, payable to NRAES, for \$13.77 (includes shipping and NYS sales tax) to: NRAES, 152 Riley-Robb Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853-5701. For more information, a free publication catalog, or to order over the phone (credit cards accepted), contact NRAES at 607-255-7654, by fax at 607-254-8770, or by e-mail at [nraes@cornell.edu](mailto:nraes@cornell.edu). To learn more about NRAES, browse through their entire catalog, and order books online, visit their web site at [www.nraes.org](http://www.nraes.org).



MFO/COVERTS is a statewide program co-sponsored by The Ruffed Grouse Society, The Robert Wentorf Jr. Foundation, and NY Woodlands Stewards, Inc., and Cornell Cooperative Extension Renewable Resources Extension Program with cooperation from NYS DEC Division of Lands and Forests and The NY Forest Owners Association. The purpose of the MFO program is to provide private, nonindustrial forest owners with the information and encouragement necessary to manage their forest holdings wisely. [www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/mfo/](http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/mfo/)

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