Mercer County Woodland Owners Association

Volume 2007 Issue 2

June 2007

MCWOA NEWS

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- As a Landowner—how concerned are you about your liability - see Issues on page 4
- Measuring your timber
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Successful Wildlife Food Plots Begin with the Basics

BY: Gary Micsky, Mercer County Extension Office

Every year we receive numerous questions regarding establishment of wildlife food plots.
Unfortunately, far too many ask the same question: **"Why didn't my food plot grow as expected?"** As we try to provide needed answers, we usually begin with some basic questions such as:

What type of wildlife are you trying to attract?
What did you plant? How and when did you plant it? Did you take a soil test? Could you describe what happened? And, Could you describe the site conditions?

Usually, these basic questions answer what went wrong, but fail to provide comfort to the landowner who sacrificed their investment of time and money. The take home message is this:

- Know your site and its limitations before you begin
- Understand the preferences of the species you are trying to attract
- Soil Test and make needed amendments – pay attention to pH requirements
- Understand the requirements of the crop you intend to grow – before you plant it

There are two excellent Wildlife Food Plot Establishment PowerPoint presentations available for viewing here at the Mercer County Extension Office. If you have questions on establishing food plots, ask them before you begin to plant.

MY TWO CENTS

BY: PAT CAMPBELL, SEC

I just wanted to share a bit about learning. They say "you can't teach and old dog new tricks", but that is just what MCWOA is about. NOT OUR AGES, but about the information we can gather through our experiences, contacts and programs.

Take the last few months—I visited the Veneer plant and was amazed by the process, the recycling efforts, and the willingness of the staff to share information with the attendees.

I also stepped out to the chainsaw safety program. It was good to see the other ladies there as well. Particularly because they wanted the information for their use.

I even gave my grafting lessons from last year a try. I expected 100% failure on my first try. To my amazement a few actually took! I made notes, and will be able to make attempts next spring as well.

We are truly successful when we do not let our lack of knowledge hold us back—but rather embrace the acquisition. Age makes us more cautious only because of what experience has added to our memory banks.

Who IS this Service Forester and What Can He Do For Me?

DCNR, PA Bureau of Forestry Cooperative Forestry Program

Pennsylvania's forestland is a very important resource for the environment and economy of the Commonwealth. Approximately 12 million acres of this forested land are privately owned. The Cooperative Forest Management (CFM) program aims to improve the extent and level of management on these lands.

The CFM Program had its beginning from the Cooperative Farm Forestry Act of 1937. This law was passed to "provide technical services to forest landowners and operators, and processors of primary forest products with respect to the management of forest lands and the harvesting, marketing and processing of forest products." Cooperative forestry has been a federal-state venture since that time. The U. S. Forest Service provides national direction while each state is expected to develop and carry out programs appropriate to its particular circumstances. The general thrust of Pennsylvania's CFM Program involves, rural forestry, urban and community forestry, and utilization of forest resources.

The purpose of the CFM program is to furnish technical advice, assistance, and service to owners of forestland. Promoting and explaining sound forest management to groups and organizations is an increasingly important aspect of the program. Forestry bears upon many aspects of both urban and rural life. It is the duty of the Service Forester in each county to help community leaders, media people, planners and individuals to realize the impact of forest management (or the lack of it) on the quality of human life, economic productivity, and the environment.

Cooperating Agencies

Farm Service Agency
Natural Resource Conservation Service
County Conservation Districts
Penn State Cooperative Extension Agency
Rural Development Committee

What We Do!

One-on-One walks through **your** woodlot for **free** advice

Forest Resource Plans: Inventory, Objectives

- Forest Stewardship Plans
- Tree Farm Plans
- Service Forester Plans

Timber Stand Improvement Projects

- Wild grapevine control
- Weed and thin pole timber, cull removal

Tree Planting Plans

- Riparian and stream buffer plantings
- Forest plantation plantings
- State tree sale

Cost Share Programs

- PA Stream ReLeaf
- Growing Greener
- FLEP Program

Information and Education Programs

- Landowner workshops
- Groups: school, civic, scouting
- Logger workshops

Urban Forestry

- Tree City USA Program
- MTRP street tree measurements

Other Duties

- Forest Fire Protection
- Insect and Disease Monitoring
- State Forest Management
- Ginseng Certification

Service Forester's can help you get to know your woodlot

Who is the Service Forester for your area?

Mercer/Lawrence Counties –
Mark Bodamer-
DCNR Bureau of Forestry, 684 Lake Wilhelm Road, Sandy Lake, PA 16145 –
(724) 253-2624 –
mbodamer@state.pa.us.

I Don't Like Spiders and Snakes…

It may not be the wilderness but farms provide plenty of opportunities for dangerous interactions with undomesticated creatures. Snakes, insects, and wild animals all carry some level of risk when working around the farm.

Ticks, mosquitoes, and spiders are mostly a nuisance. However, deer ticks are best known for sometimes carrying Lyme disease and mosquitoes can carry West Nile Virus which causes West Nile Encephalitis. Both can have symptoms that range from mild to debilitating. West Nile can cause death, mostly in the elderly. There are a few spiders in Pennsylvania with potentially harmful venoms that can cause great discomfort and destruction of tissue in the area of the bit. However, except for the elderly, they are unlikely to cause death.

Snakes have a bad reputation overall but of the 21 snakes native to Pennsylvania, only three are venomous; Eastern Mississauga Rattlesnake, Northern Copperhead, and the Timber Rattlesnake. These three are pit vipers, which helps to distinguish them from non-venomous snakes in Pennsylvania.

According to the Amphibians and Reptiles Web page on the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Web site: "two facial characteristics common to all pit vipers are vertically elliptical pupils (like cat's eyes and facial pits (indentations on the "cheeks" which aid in heat detection and locating prey). Facial pits are not found on non-venomous snakes native to the commonwealth. In addition, rattlesnakes have rattles or the remnants of rattles beginning at the base of the tail. The northern copperhead has a single row of scales on the underside of the tail between the anal opening and the tip of the tail. Our non-venomous snakes have two rows of scales under the tail."

Whether dead or alive, the main reason to be cautious of wild animals such as raccoons, skunks, bats, and foxes, is rabies. Rabies infects the central nervous system and without treatment will cause death.

Wild Animal Safety Tips

- Avoid contact with wild or stray animals.
- If bitten or scratched, get medical attention immediately.

Insect Safety Tips

- Wear long pants, socks, and long-sleeved shirts.
- Use insect repellents that have been studied and proven effective. According to the Centers for Disease Control, DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide), picaridin (KBR 3023), and oil of lemon eucalyptus (p-menthane-3,8-diol) are the most effective that can be used on skin and clothing. Permethrin is another long-lasting repellent that is intended for application to clothing and gear, but not directly to skin.
- You can use over the counter medications to relieve pain and itch. If you suspect you may have been bitten by a deer tick or poisonous spider, seek medication attention right away. If possible, take the insect with you.

Snake Safety Tips

- Wear heavy gloves, long pants, socks, long sleeve shirts. Wear boots at least 10 inches high or snake-proof gators.
- When working around debris, rocks or other areas where snakes might be, watch where you place your hands. Don't place your hands under debris possible. Watch for snakes sunning on fallen trees, limbs, debris.
- If you see a snake, step back and allow it to proceed.
- A snake's striking distance is about ½ the total length of the snake.
- If bitten, note the color and shape of the snake's head to help treatment.
- If suspicious that a bite is by a potentially venomous snake, the victim as still and calm as possible. Seek medical attention soon as possible. Do not cut the wound and suck out the venom. If possible keep the bite below the level of the heart.

Snakes, insects, and wild animals all carry some level of risk when working around the farm

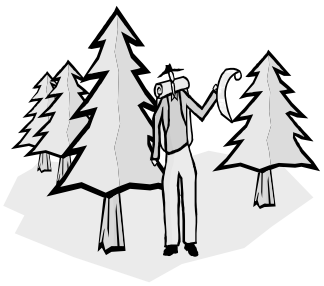
Reprinted from :

This article written with material from the following resources:

OSHA Quick Card: Rodents, Snakes and Insects http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_Hurricane_Facts/rodents_snakes_insects.pdf

Insect Repellant Use and Safety http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/qa/insect_repellent.htm

Centers for Disease Control Rabies Web page http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/rabies/



UPDATE:
On May 23, the House voted 199-0 to send Readshaw's bill to the Senate for further consideration.

"For decades, the Recreational Use of Land and Water Act stood to protect landowners who agree to open their land to hunters," Roe said. "However, a recent civil case in Lehigh County, demonstrated that there was a need to strengthen the law, thereby continuing to provide liability protection for landowners who generously open their lands to hunters. "With House approval of Rep. Readshaw's bill, we now look forward to working with the Senate to advance this measure to Governor Edward G. Rendell's desk in a timely manner."

From PA Game Commission News
Release #063-07

Major Threat To Recreational Outdoor Use

By Michael Barcaskey MCWOA Member

Arguably, one of the greatest threats to hunting, fishing and all outdoor activities is currently facing us. Access to all private land in Pennsylvania is in jeopardy, and since 80% of Pennsylvania is privately owned, there could be very few hills and fields to roam in the future.

The Burns vs. Haas case has been a grave concern for both landowners and those who love outdoor recreation.

Casey Burns was the woman who was hit by a hunter's stray bullet. Burns, 18 years of age at the time, was shot in the head while sitting in a car in November 1994. The bullet that injured her came from a rifle shot by Craig Wetzel, who was hunting on property owned by Daniel Haas.

Burns was pregnant at the time she was shot. She was hospitalized for a week and gave birth to a daughter in February 2005. Haas was the landowner who allowed the hunter on his 140 acre orchard. Wetzel was the hunter whose 7mm Magnum bullet struck Burns on the left side of her head as she sat in her car, more than ½ mile away.

Burns sued both Wetzel and Haas claiming that they were negligent and as a direct result she was injured. The first part of the case in September 2006, ascertained responsibility. An "expert in deer-hunting safety" testified that Wetzel's fired without a safe backstop, using a weapon that had too long a range, since there were nearby homes. The jury decided that Wetzel was 90 percent negligent and that Haas was 10 percent negligent in the shooting.

The initial court decision resulted in some landowners in the area closing off their property, for fear of being held liable for accidents.

The second part of the case, in February 2007, was to determine financial liability. The Burns' lawyer focused on the landowner Haas, because he had more assets and insurance and Wetzel did not have much in assets. Under Pennsylvania law, Burns was able to ask for the total amount of a jury award from landowner Haas.

The lawyers reached an agreement halfway through the trial. Burns received a substantial settlement for her injuries, medical bills, past lost wages and future lost earnings. The settlement prevented the jury from deciding on the amount of damages and landowner Haas limited his liability. If Haas, or his insurance company, wants to make Wetzel contribute "his 90 percent share", they will now have to sue Wetzel.

The case and settlement were bad for all people in Pennsylvania who enjoy outdoors activities and state legislators now realize that the Pennsylvania Recreational Use Act was not strong enough in protecting landowners who allow free use of their land. Landowners are closing their land to recreational use, antis are using the verdict against us and Allie Dickinson, Burns' mother, has vowed to continue lobbying state legislators for restrictions on hunting near residential areas and laws to make landowners more responsible for activities on their properties.

All those who use private land for their outdoor activities have a vested interest in protecting the landowner. State legislators have introduced legislation that amends the Pennsylvania's Recreational Use of Land and Water Act to protect the landowner.

At the recent Pennsylvania Game Commission annual report to the Legislature before the House Game and Fisheries Committee, Majority Chairman Ed Staback (D-Lackawanna), said land owners all over Pennsylvania are considering closing their land to public hunting because of liability issues. He said the future of hunting in Pennsylvania depends on changes that should be made to the landowner and recreational acts.

Currently there are two bills in the House Game and Fisheries Committee. House Bill 13 and House Bill 74 both address the issue of landowner liability by encouraging landowners to make land and water areas available to the public for recreational purposes by limiting liability.

Both the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission have voiced their support of the legislation to the Game and Fisheries Committee members. All hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor users need to call they state legislators and voice their support of these bills protecting the landowner and access to their land.

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TREE-WHIZ FOR KIDZ
LEARNING PAGE

Growing … Growing ...Grown

How does a tree grow from a tiny shoot to a giant of the forest?
Trees undergo three (3) kinds of growth.
Height Diameter Root

Height Growth: A Tree expands in height from the growing points at the end of branches and stems. This means that trees grow from the top up not from the ground up.

Diameter Growth: A tree grows not only up but out. Just beneath the bark is a thin layer of living cells called the cambium. The cambium is like a factory that makes two kind of products. One the wood or xylem (zi-lem) is formed on the inside of the cambium layer . The other, called the inner bark or phloem (flow-em) is added on the outside of the tree.

Root Growth: Roots expand in diameter from a cambium layer also. They grow longer from their tips just like branches and the main stem do. The major difference is that roots grow down instead of up,

The Heart of the Story

Outer Bark is the 'skin' of the tree. Outer bark protects the tree from injury. The bark is a barrier to insects and diseases. It also insulates the tree from winter cold and summer heat.

Inner Bark (phloem) has tubes through which food travels from the leaves down to the branches, stem and roots. When phloem cells die they become part of the outer bark.

New Wood (xylem) carries minerals dissolved in water upward from the roots.

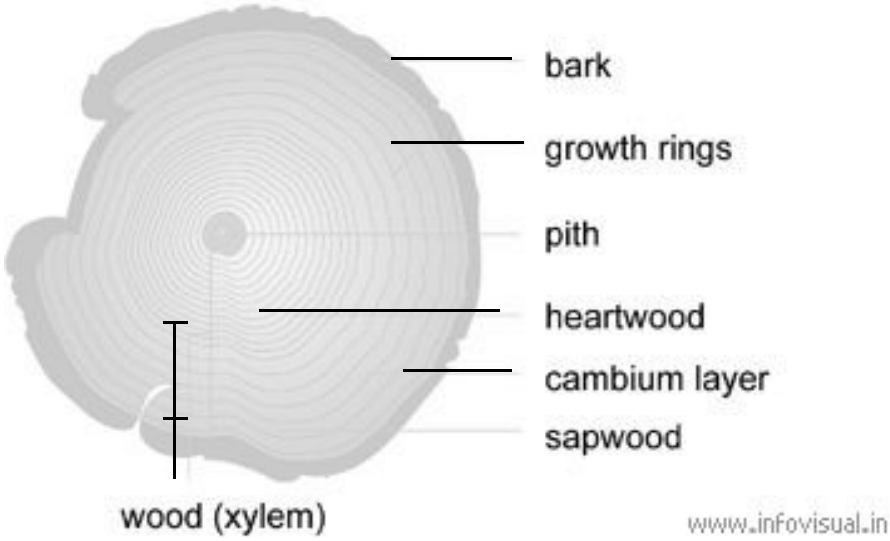
A **cambium** cell layer is wrapped around the wood. It makes new bark (phloem) and new wood (xylem) every year.

Heartwood is the backbone of the tree. Heartwood is not living wood. It supports the tree. It also is the place where many waste products from the tree collect.

From:
TREES + ME=FORESTRY
A 4-H Publication

Trees undergo three (3) kinds of growth.
Height
Diameter
Root

CROSS SECTION OF A TREE



The Forester's Forum

By Mark Bodamer, Forester DCNR, Bureau of Forestry

For this issue of the MCWOA newsletter I am submitting an article written by my co-worker Gary Gilmore. Gary is the forester for Jefferson and Armstrong Counties. His article on "Measuring Your Woods" comes from one of Gary's personal experiences with a landowner. I know you will enjoy the interesting and informative article.

MEASURING YOUR WOODS

By Gary L. Gilmore, Forester
DCNR Bureau of Forestry

"Dad! The phones for you"! My daughter hollered from the top of the steps. A familiar voice on the other end is a friend of mine who quickly got to the point of his call. "You know how badly I want to move out of town and I've found a 14 acre property that has a nice camp on it." "That is great", I replied, sensing Chuck's enthusiasm. Then he told me the price. "They want $140,000." After checking to make sure the decimal point was in the correct place I asked him if it included a gold mine. "No, but it has some really nice black cherry and that is why I'm calling you."

Chuck owns a sawmill and the lumber he cuts is sold by the board foot. This basic unit is simply the amount of wood in a piece measuring 12 inches square by 1 inch thick. To figure out the number of board feet in a pile of lumber is easy. It is a little harder to determine the amount of board feet you can cut from a log.

Several log volume tables have been developed over the years to compute this number. These tables use the diameter of the small end of the log (inside the bark) and the length of the log in feet. One of the oldest and most widely used log rules is the Doyle scale. Because this rule was developed for large trees, it greatly underestimates the actual board-foot yield from small diameter logs (such as 12 to 16 inch diameters). The Scribner log rule was developed in the 1840's and is based on full-scale diagrams for inch boards with a ¼ " kerf (the amount of wood removed by the saw blade). This rule shows a good correlation between the estimated number of board feet in a log and what is actually sawn from the log. The most accurate rule is the International ¼" developed in 1906. It is based on a formula that looks at the volume of the log in each four-foot section. The ¼" implies the amount of wood removed by the saw blade on each cut.

The following table is a comparison of log scales. These volumes are for logs, 16 feet long using the diameter inside the bark on the small end of the log.

Dia. inches	Doyle	Scribner	Int. 1/4"
10	36	54	65
12	64	79	95
14	100	114	135
16	144	159	180
18	196	213	230
20	256	280	290
22	324	334	355
24	400	404	425
26	484	500	500
28	576	582	585
30	676	657	657

Even with these rules, it can still be difficult to estimate how many rectangular boards you can get from a round log. The person who determines the number of board feet in a log is called a log scaler. They have to look at many variables such as log taper, roundness of the log, the curve or sweep of the log and rotten spots in the wood. The hardest part about scaling a log is determining its value. A high quality cherry log five years ago may have sold for $80 but today may bring over $500. A pine log of the same size may only have been worth $10 five years ago and today may still only be worth $10.

Soon you start realizing the wide range of values in tree species and the number and value of the different quality boards that can be sawn from that log. This leads you to an appreciation of the complexity of determining the value of a log. My friend Chuck has been in the sawmill business long enough to be fairly good at estimating the value of a pile of logs, but not standing trees.

It was about 3:30 when I parked in front of the chain that blocked the driveway to the camp. Chuck unrolled the map, which showed a rectangular property of 14 acres with the camp set near the middle. Getting

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The Forester's Forum

(Continued from page 6)

out of the truck, I handed Chuck a 50-foot measuring tape and a diameter tape while I grabbed a notebook. Since the property was only 14 acres I told Chuck we should take a quick walk around the perimeter. There are two reasons for this. First, I needed to see where the boundary lines were. Because the property had recently been surveyed the lines were well marked. The second reason for the scouting trip was to look at the forest and determine if the trees are fairly even mix of species spread over the property or were they in clumps. Were there big differences in tree heights, areas without trees or a wide variation of tree diameters across the woodlot?

This quick walk revealed about 2 acres should be deducted from the total forest area because of the camp and road. Another two acres were also deducted because it was mostly a hemlock grove. The remaining 10 acres was covered with a red maple, sugar maple, beech and black cherry forest.

There are two ways to estimate the number of board feet of timber in these woods. We could do a 100% tally by measuring every tree. This is the most accurate method, but takes a lot of time. The other method is to take a sample and expand that to give volumes on the entire area. This is the easier method and is quite accurate as long as the area measured is homogenous as described above. Since it would be dark in two hours we opted for the partial sample method.

Starting near the one property corner, I held one end of the tape and told Chuck to walk in the direction of the sun 37 feet 3 inches. This is the radius of a 1/10-acre plot. I like to start my plot measurements in line with the sun and then work clockwise. This makes it easier to remember where I started. While I stood at the plot center, he measured the diameter of each tree with in the circle. As he called out the diameter, I recorded the species and estimated the number of 16 foot logs in the tree.

MEASURING DBH

Measuring the diameter at breast height (DBH) is an important measurement in forestry. This dimension is used for assessing stand density, estimating tree volume, and ultimately the value of the woodland. DBH is the diameter outside bark of the tree's stem at a point 4 1/2 feet above the ground. When measuring on slopes, stand on the uphill side of the tree to adjust for stump height.

The most common instrument for measuring DBH is the cruiser or Biltmore stick. It looks a lot like a wooden yardstick, with a diameter scale stamped on one edge. You can even use a carpenter's ruler, determine the circumference of the tree and then divide by 3.14. This will give you the diameter of the tree in inches.

MEASURING TREE HEIGHT

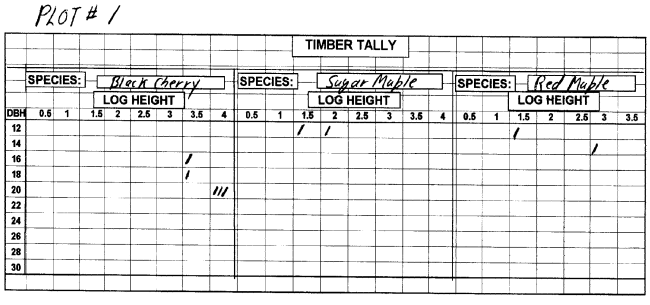
The merchantable height of a tree is the distance from the stump to a point on the tree where the stem drops below a certain diameter, usually 8 or 10 inches. Merchantable height is often estimated in terms of logs. A log is 16 feet long while a half log is 8 feet. A three and a half log tree would contain 56 feet of saw log material.

Estimating tree heights requires more judgment. It is fairly easy to determine where the upper limit of merchantability is located on a pine tree, but can be difficult with hardwoods due to leaves and branching.

The most common and easiest to use instrument is the Merritt hypsometer. This simple scale is often printed on a cruise stick. Another easy way to measure tree height is to cut a stick 8 or 16 feet long and lean it against the tree. Stand about 50 feet away and then using the stick as a reference, figure how many logs are in the tree. This is what the tree tally sheet looked like after the first plot.

After collecting the diameter and heights of the 9 trees in the first plot, we walked about 200 yards and did another plot. It is important to spread the plots evenly though out the area you are sampling. If you only put plots where the big trees are, your estimates for the whole stand will be exaggerated.

In all, Chuck and I collected data on 12 plots through out the 10 acres of woods. This represented 1.2 acres on which the trees were actually measured or 12% of the forest. It was now beginning to get dark and time to go home where I could start figuring volumes.



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ESTIMATING TREE VOLUME

If trees produced stems that were perfect cylinders, estimating volume would be easy. However, since trees taper from ground to tip, and because all species don't do this in the same manner, foresters have designed numerous equations and volume tables for different species, different regions, different forms and so forth.

You can estimate tree volume using DBH, height and a volume table. Cruise sticks often have a generic volume table stamped on one side of the stick. Volume estimates for standing trees are normally limited to the central stem. Any volume in the branches is usually ignored. Other factors that affect the volume in a tree are the presence of rot, curves and other defects.

Over the years, various tables have been developed to estimate the amount of lumber in a tree based on the diameter and height. The most accurate tables are developed by regions and are called local volume tables. For instance, a volume table developed for black cherry in the Poconos will not give accurate estimation of cherry on the Allegheny Plateau. The following chart is a simple volume table developed by the US Forest Service for the Northeastern Area.

Number of 16 foot logs

DBH (in.)	1/2	1	1 1/2	2	2 1/2	3	3 1/2	4
12	30	60	80	100	120			
14	40	80	110	140	160	180		
16	60	100	150	180	210	250	280	310
18	70	140	190	240	280	320	360	400
20	90	170	240	300	350	400	450	500
22	110	210	290	360	430	490	560	610
24	130	250	350	430	510	590	660	740
26	160	300	410	510	600	700	790	880
28	190	350	480	600	700	810	920	1020
30	220	410	550	690	810	930	1060	1180
32	260	470	640	790	940	1080	1220	1360
34	290	530	730	900	1060	1220	1380	1540

Using this chart and the tally data we collected, I sat down and started do determine volumes. The first step was to determine the number of trees in each diameter and log height class. Next, I found the corresponding diameter and tree height in the volume table and multiplied that amount by the number of trees. Adding all the volumes together by species gave me a good estimate of how many boards could eventually be sawn from the standing trees we measured on the 12 plots. Since these twelve 1/10th plots covered 12% of the ten acres, I divided the number of board feet in each species on the 12 plots by 0.12 to obtain the estimated amount of timber on the entire ten acres.

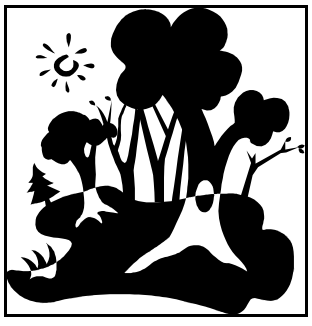
While walking the property, Chuck mentioned a timber cruiser had recently told him there was about 45,000 board feet of black cherry on the property. With that figure in mind, I called Chuck the next day and gave him the figures I came up with. There were 35,000 feet of red maple, 14,000 feet of sugar maple and 112,000 feet of black cherry.

Coming up with a value on this amount of standing timber is tricky. The two biggest variables are the species and the quality of wood. The Timber Market Report is published quarterly by Penn State Extension or can be accessed over the web at :

www.cas.psu/edu/docs/CASDEPT/FOREST/TMR.TMR.html

This report breaks the State into regions and gives a range of values by tree species. Since Chuck already had a good knowledge of log values, all he needed from me was an estimate on the volume of lumber in the standing trees.

It was several weeks later when I saw Chuck again. "You know that fellow I told you about that said there was only 45,000 board feet of cherry on the property for which he offered $65,000? Well I heard from him last week and now his offer is $110,000!" I'm still



scarlet oak

Fagaceae *Quercus coccinea* Muenchh.

Leaf: Alternate, simple, 3 to 7 inches long, oval in shape with very deep sinuses and bristle-tipped lobes, shiny green above, paler and generally hairless below but may have tufts in vein axils.

Flower: Monoecious; males are borne on slender yellow-green catkins; females are borne on very short axilliary spikes, both appear with the leaves in spring.

Fruit: Acorns are 1/2 to 1 inch long, with the cap covering 1/2 of the nut, cap scales are shiny, somewhat resembling a varnished black oak cap, scales on edges of cap genrally not loose; the tip of the acorn may have concentric rings or fine cracks; maturing in two years and ripening in the fall.

Twig: Moderately stout, red-brown with multiple terminal buds; buds reddish brown, plump, pointed, slightly angled, and covered with a light colored pubescence on the top half.

Bark: On young trees, gray-brown, with smooth streaks; later becoming darker and developing irregular broad ridges and narrow furrows especially near the base.

Form: A medium size tree reaching up to 80 feet tall with generally poor form, irregular crown, and many dead branches. A butt-swell is often noticeable, and often is useful in identification.

white oak

Fagaceae *Quercus alba* L.

Leaf: Alternate, simple, oblong to ovate in shape, 4 to 7 inches long; 7 to 10 rounded, finger-like lobes, sinus depth varies from deep to shallow, apex is rounded and the base is wedge-shaped, green to blue-green above and whitish below.

Flower: Monoecious; male flowers are yellow-green, borne in naked, slender catkins, 2 to 4 inches long; female flowers are reddish green and appear as very small single spikes; appearing with the leaves in mid-spring.

Fruit: Ovoid to oblong acorn, cap is warty and bowl-shaped, covers 1/4 of the fruit; cap always detaches at maturity; matures in one growing season in the early fall.

Twig: Red-brown to somewhat gray, even a bit purple at times, hairless and often shiny; multiple terminal buds are red-brown, small, rounded (globose) and hairless.

Bark: Whitish or ashy gray, varying from scaly on smaller stems to irregularly platy or blocky on large stems. On older trees smooth patches are not uncommon.

Form: A very large tree; when open grown, white oaks have rugged, irregular crowns that are wide spreading, with a stocky bole. In the forest crowns are upright and oval with trees reaching up to 100 feet tall and several feet in diameter.

northern red oak

Fagaceae *Quercus rubra* L.

Leaf: Alternate, simple, 5 to 8 inches long, oblong in shape with 7 to 11 bristle-tipped lobes, sinuses extend 1/3 to 1/2 of the way to midvein, generally very uniform in shape, dull green to blue-green above and paler below.

Flower: Monoecious; males in yellow-green slender, hanging catkins, 2 to 4 inches long; females are borne on short axiliary spikes, appearing with the leaves in spring.

Fruit: Acorns are 3/4 to 1 inch long and nearly round; cap is flat and thick, covering about 1/4 or less of the acorn, resembling a beret; matures in 2 growing seasons, in late summer and fall.

Twig: Quite stout, red-brown and glabrous; terminal buds multiple, quite large, conical, and covered with red-brown, mostly hairless scales but terminal scales may bear some frosty pubescence.

Bark: On young stems, smooth; older bark develops wide, flat-topped ridges and shallow furrows. The shallow furrows form a pattern resembling ski tracts.

Form: A medium sized to large tree that reaches up to 90 feet tall, develops a short trunk and round crown when open grown, straight with a clear, long bole when grown with competition.

Mercer County Woodland Owners Association

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Cochranton, PA 16314

Email: MCWOA@yahoo.com

We're on the web
www.mcwoa.org

MCWOA

UP COMING EVENTS

JUNE 23-24, 10 am—5 pm Pioneer Frolic—Goddard State Park
MCWOA is setting up a display board—help is needed to man the table throughout the day.

JUNE 30 , 9 am—noon " *Woods in my Backyard*" Mercer County Program focus on landowners with 1-10 acres. Managing small plots. Other dates July 14 in Meadville, Aug 25—Tionesta and September 29 Erie. Contact Extension Office for details. Cost $20 for materials.

AUGUST 4, all day—Field Trip and Steak fry–
This year's summer picnic will be combined with a field trip to Clear Creek State Forest and Cooks Forest State Park. Once we arrive at Clear Creek State Forest, the Bureau of Forestry staff will lead us in a tour where we will see the benefits of deer exclusion fences, prescribed burns to enhance oak regeneration, old growth forests, visit the Bear Town Rocks viewing area, and end the tour with a steak cookout at Cooks Forest State Park. The date for the tour/picnic is Saturday, August 4th. We will most likely be taking a bus from Mercer, leaving at 7:30 am and returning by 6:00 pm. Watch the mail for more information and a reservation card. Please lease reply promptly.

SEPTEMBER 16—Munnel Run Farm Days

OCTOBER 20, — Annual Dinner—Grantham's Landing

MCWOA REPRESENTATIVES

Officers:	President	Robert McGhee	
	Vice Pres	Alan James	
	Sec/Tres	Pat Campbell	(814)-425-2700
	Email: MCWOA@yahoo.com		
Board Members:	Albert Law	John Scheafnocker	Donald Campbell
	Patrick Kelly	Dane Mitchell	
Advisors:	DCNR, Bureau Forestry	Mark Bodamer	(724)-253-3634
	Mercer County Extension Office	Gary Micsky	(724) 662-3141

MCWOA MEMBERSHIPS 2007

TYPE	Dues	Description
Lifetime	$200	Individual Lifetime, Woodland owner, voting member
Family	$15	Immediate household, Woodland owner, 1 voting member
Individual	$10	Individual, Woodland owner, voting member
Associate	$5	Individual, Non-Woodland owner, non-voting member
Junior	$2	Individual age 16 yrs and younger, non-voting member
Sponsor	$10	Group or Business interested in Woodland Mgmt, non-voting

ALL MEMBERS receive newsletter, mailings, and MCWOA event admissions.

MCWOA NEWS Letters will be discontinued if memberships are not paid up.