Mercer County Woodland Owners Association

March 2007 Issue 1

MCWOA NEWS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

On the web
www.MCWOA.org

My Two Cents

by Pat Campbell, MCWOA Sec/Tres

They say 'can't teach an old dog' and if that is true then they have never been to the Woodland Owners Convention. Well this past February I attended what I hope will be many more to come.

I was surprised to see over 200 people in attendance, and met several that traveled to Meadville from Erie and Clarion regions. It was also nice to see faces I'm becoming familiar with from other woodland groups. The networking and sharing of ideas, issues and hopes extend the bond we all have in our woodlands.

Sessions covering forest songbirds, deer management in private forests, forest wildlife and research projects by CEED (Center for Economic and Environmental Development).

One of my biggest surprises for the day was when the groups split for the afternoon. While Don headed off to the Hemlock Wooly Adelgid Updates and the Timber Marketing Basics, I thought I would go to the smaller groups - but ended in a packed house. Who knew Income Tax Considerations and Oil and Gas Leasing would be such "hot" topics.

I'm always open for information and found plenty here. The key themes for Taxes—record keeping current and past! and Oil & Gas—remember its your property and you have rights!

I will be posting some additional information links on our website. Hope you can visit.
www.MCWOA.org

Forest Ecology Camp

July 8-13, 2007

The Forest Ecology Camp is an annual cooperative program sponsored by the McKeever Environmental Learning Center and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry.

The Forest Ecology Camp is an exciting and educational experience that gives students' the opportunity to learn about the forest ecosystem. Most of the week is spent "in the field" participating in forest and stream ecology studies, tree identification, wildflowers, tree boring and studying a one-acre plot of forest.

You'll canoe the cool waters of Geneva Marsh, one of the largest wetlands in Pennsylvania and swim in Sandy Lake, one of the least developed glacial lakes in northwestern Pennsylvania. You can join other boys and girls from across the state that shares similar outdoor interests.

A Resource Professional from DCNR's Bureau of Forestry and an educator from the McKeever Center lead each group of students. Topics include general forestry practices, forest ecology, forest soils, wildlife management and wetlands. This camp features field trips, guest speakers and recreational activities that include swimming and hiking.

This program is open for boys and girls who are entering 6^{th}-9^{th} grades and have an interest in the outdoors. The cost for this weeklong program is $275.00 and includes all meals, from Sunday dinner to breakfast on Friday, lodging, evening snacks, instruction, guest speakers, T-shirt and all materials.

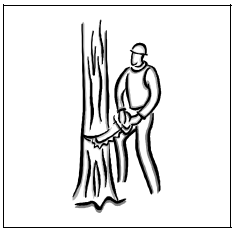
For an application, call, write or e-mail the McKeever Center, 55 McKeever Lane, Sandy Lake, PA 16145. 724.376.1000 info@mckeever.org, www.mckeever.org **Deadline for registration is June 13, 2007.**

NOTE: MCWOA offers scholarships to this camp. Students do not have to be a MCWOA member but they must be sponsored by a current member. Submit scholarship requests to Mark Bodamer, DCNR, Bureau of Forestry, 684 Lake Wilhelm Road, Sandy Lake, PA 16145.

Up Coming Events

•**March 10** Blue Birds and Purple Martin Program @ McKeever Learning Center, Sandy Lake 9 am—noon.

March 14 *Board Meeting Mercer County Extension Office 7 pm*



Saturday, May 5

•**May 5** **CHAINSAW SAFETY**

Stihl Company Products User Representative, Ben Crago will present a Chainsaw Safety program for MCWOA. Event will be held at Launch 3 Pavilion @ M K Goddard State Park. 9 am - 1 pm This is an outdoor –Rain or Shine– event please dress appropriately—field demonstration will be included. Due to safety concerns class size limited - Please register by e-mail to MCWOA@yahoo.org or call Pat @ 814-425-2700.

July Field Trip & Summer Picnic (date pending) Forest Regeneration.

Travel to State Forest Lands by bus to receive an up-date program on regeneration efforts, effectiveness of fencing against deer over browse

Winter Homes for Wildlife

Anyone who has endured one Pennsylvania winter can tell you: It gets awful cold. As the cold weather approaches, Pennsylvanians prepare by donning winter coats, hats, scarves, and mittens. We may even try to keep from spending time outdoors at all. Pennsylvania wildlife share these same instincts. Animals that don't migrate or hibernate will spend the season searching for warmth in the snow-covered forest.

Rock walls, brush piles, grapevine tangles, briar patches, tree cavities, downed wood, bark crevices, these are all examples of what natural resource professionals call "winter thermal cover," or places for animals to take shelter from the cold. According to Gary San Julian, professor of wildlife ecology at Penn State, developing good wildlife habitat means providing all of the elements that animals need: food, water, and shelter.

"Animals are looking for a place out of the wind, a place to stay dry, and a place to stay insulated." San Julian says. Where does such a place exist? For deer, a cluster of evergreen trees makes the perfect hide-away from the snow and cold. Places that are vulnerable to the cold, such as the transitional area between field and forest, can be made more wildlife friendly by leaving a couple of rows of crops along the edges. San Julian adds, "That's especially important if there is some thermal cover nearby. You don't get your best crops there anyway, and it has a great benefit for wildlife, and also has a benefit for erosion. "

You don't have to be a farmer or forest landowner to provide winter habitat for animals. San Julian has built a brush pile, a loose collection of fallen twigs and branches, in his backyard for resting rabbits, and other small mammals. He notes that birds are attracted to open sources of water, such as heated birdbaths (or in the forest, spring seeps), when fresh water is in short supply.

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The Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry and USDA Forest Service, in partnership with the Penn State's Forest Resources Extension, sponsor the Forest Stewardship Program in Pennsylvania.

Spring Wildflowers: Tempting Beauties in Our Woodlands

Written by Jim Finley, fj4@psu.edu

Spring flowers are coming to a woodlot near you. Dutchman's breeches, Chicken and Corn, Round-leaved Orchids, Ladyslippers, Red Trillium, Jack-in-the-Pulpit are interesting names that describe wonderful flowers that may brighten forests for a short springtime window.

Wildflowers help make forests magical. The small, sometimes inconspicuous flowers are magical in their beauty. The colors, variety, and diversity are amazing. Local forests may have dozens of spring wildflower species. Dropping to your knees and observing flowers is fun. Even the more common wildflowers, such as Adder's Tongue and Springbeauty, are intriguing and captivating.

Many of these flowers are ephemeral. Ephemeral flowers are only visible for short time. They erupt from the forest floor, flower, and disappear in only a few weeks. The knowledgeable observer may still recognize the leaves and fruits of many of these species later in the growing season; however, for the most part, the season is short.

Ephemeral forest flowers evolved to take advantage of light and moisture conditions in the springwoods. Growth begins early while the forest canopy is devoid of leaves. Below the leafless canopy, the forest floor warms rapidly, stirring wildflowers to initiate growth. As they begin to flower, early emerging pollinating insects seek them out and take advantage of these sources of nectar and pollen. The ideal light conditions last only a short time; soon the leaves in the forest canopy begin to unfold and capture the light. As this happens, the spring flower season soon ends

In many of our forests, the spring wildflower display is not as diverse and rich as it could be. Many of the spring flowers are favorite food sources for white-tailed deer. Some of the more showy flowers, such as Trillium and Ladyslippers rare in forests where they were once abundant as deer selective browse them in the understory. Also missing in many forests are some less conspicuous species such as Canada Mayflower and Indian Cucumber Root. In many cases, you can find individual plants preferred by deer, but often these individuals are smaller and much less robust than they should be. Often time, you can find some of these browse-impacted plants finding refuge in soil patches on top of large rocks or along ledges.

Wherever you find spring wildflowers, take the opportunity to enjoy them where you find them. Picking takes away the opportunity for them to reproduce and to spread through the forest. Some of the flowers are rare and we should always try to encourage their presence where in the forest. So, take pictures and gather memories – to blossom.

There are many great field guides available to identifying spring flowers. These guides often start with the flower's color, then the structure, and sometimes link to the site where the plant occurs. When you identify a species, make a notation in the book about where you first saw it. In this way, you can start a "Life List." It will aid you in recalling the species, what it looked like, and where it grew. As you learn your spring flowers, show others and encourage them to enjoy the season!

Wildflowers help make forests magical

DON'S DIARY

CAVITY TREES

Boundary lines are an excellent place to leave cavity nesting trees

While sitting in my deer stand during the recent rifle season I got to watch quite a bit of the local wildlife going about their daily routine. From my perch 15 feet in the air I saw three squirrels go in and out of a 16 inch diameter Red Maple tree about 40 yards form my stand. Upon leaving the stand the first evening I went to the tree to look for the hole they were using. It was out of view from my perch in my deer stand. Sure enough about 16 feet up the backside of that tree there was a small hole where a branch had once been and now was rotted away.

Boundary lines are an excellent place to leave cavity nesting trees, and our property has a good variety. The good thing about our property boundary is that some boarders the neighbors cow pasture while others bound on forestland in different stages of development. Beechnut, Red Maple, Sugar Maple, Basswood, Hickory trees make up most of our den trees. The last logger left beechnut trees because of low value and tendency to be hollow. Most likely they weren't worth the logger's time and the owner didn't require the logger to drop them to the forest floor.

Pat and I have more than six den trees per acre, the recommended number by some of the experts is four to six per acre. We are still lacking natural cavities in many of the place we want to get birds nesting. As I have covered in the past we have put up eight bluebird boxes in open field where there are no favorable trees. This year near our home we are placing a Purple Martin house because we want to attract that beautiful and very valuable insect eater. Last year we put up a kestrel nest. In the neighbors cow pasture I see kestrel frequently no doubt they are using a natural cavity in the tree line along the road. That small bird of prey eats mostly mice in the pasture area. They like to site on power lines and look for their prey. By the way, they're a good indication that the environment is health in any area where they live.

In the past I've talked about putting up Wood Duck nests, four to be exact. I haven't checked all of the boxes yet but during the summer of 2005 we had young wood ducks raised on our beaver pond. They did not come from one of our boxes. Evidently there is a den tree some where within a mile of the pond that they used. During the summer of 2006 we had a Merganser raise her young on the beaver pond. This year the beaver created two more ponds to make a total of four in our six-acre bottomland. The bottomland was mostly red stem dogwood, grasslands and willow brush prior to the beaver flooding it.

Our Wood Duck nests are not a complete loss as I have found squirrels using one and in the winter I saw a Screech Owl in another one. If the temperature falls below zero, when you check you box they will sit there and not move. You could pick them up but watch out they don't latch on to you. I observe them and just leave them alone. At the State Park I have seen several Screech Owls in the 50 Wood Duck Boxes the volunteers maintain. Honey Bees have also made a home in Wood Duck nests and one in our bat house.

Mark Bodamer helped me out this year by trapping four beaver out of the oldest pond and the neighbor boy took one. There should be five beaver remaining in the ponds. By the way Mark got the large male from the oldest pond and it weighed approximately 60 lbs.

I have debated about putting up a Barred Owl box, but there isn't any hurry at this time because I saw one of those beautiful birds from my tree stand. The neighbors were putting on a deer drive and they chased it to me. It landed in a tree no more than 40 yards from me and stayed long enough for me to look at it through my binoculars. It had brown eyes and no visible ears, plus it was in the middle of a forest. I was sure it was a Barred Owl but I looked it up in Pat's bird book when I got home just to be sure. Since this is one of the large Owls I assume that somewhere a large den tree near by is called home. They have a large range so I'm not likely to draw another owl to our prop-

(Continued on page 8)

sugar maple
Aceraceae *Acer saccharum* Marsh

Leaf**:** Opposite, simple and palmately veined, 3 to 6 inches long, 5 delicately rounded lobes, entire margin; green above, paler below.

Flower: Light yellow-green, small, clustered, hanging from a long, slender (1 to 3 inch) stem, appearing with or slightly before the leaves in early spring.

Fruit: Two-winged horseshoe-shaped samaras about 1 inch long, appearing in clusters, brown when mature in in the fall.

Twig: Brown, slender and shiny with lighter lenticels; terminal buds brown, very sharp pointed, with tight scales.

Bark: Variable, but generally brown, on older trees it becomes darker, develops furrows, with long, thick irregular curling outward, firm ridges.

Form: Medium to tall tree (to 100 feet) with very dense elliptical crown.

red maple
Aceraceae *Acer rubrum* L

Leaf**:** Opposite, simple, 3 to 5 palmate lobes with serrated margin, sinuses relatively shallow (but highly variable), 2 to 4 inches long; green above, whitened and sometimes glaucous or hairy beneath.

Flower: Attractive but small, occur in hanging clusters, usually bright red but occasionally yellow, appear in early spring, usually before leaves.

Fruit: Clusters of 1/2 to 3/4 inch long samaras with slightly divergent wings, on long slender stems. Light brown and often reddish, ripen in late spring and early summer.

Twig: Reddish and lustrous with small lenticels, buds usually blunt, green or reddish (fall and winter) with several loose scales usually present, leaf scars V-shaped, 3 bundle scars, lateral buds slightly stalked, may be collateral buds present.

Bark: On young trees, smooth and light gray, with age becomes darker and breaks up into long, fine scaly plates.

Form: Medium sized tree up to 90 feet. In forest, trunk usually clear for some distance, in the open the trunk is shorter and the crown rounded.

LEARN TO ID

Comparison of identifying characteristics of the Sugar and Red Maples

Other Facts

Sugar maple is used to make furniture, veneer, paneling, flooring, gunstocks, tool handles, plywood dies, cutting blocks, woodenwares, bowling pins, musical instruments, etc

Red maple wood is relatively soft but is used for pulp, sawtimber, veneer, pallets, crates, barrels, flooring, plywood, cabinetry, railroad ties, etc.

See the following page for Leaf and Twig Key terms.

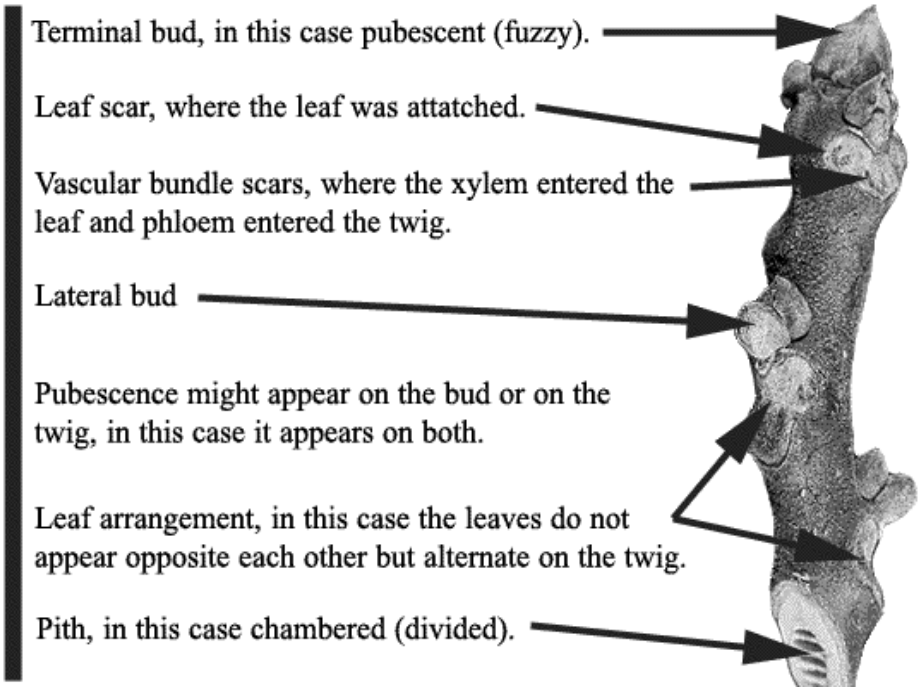
Twig Key

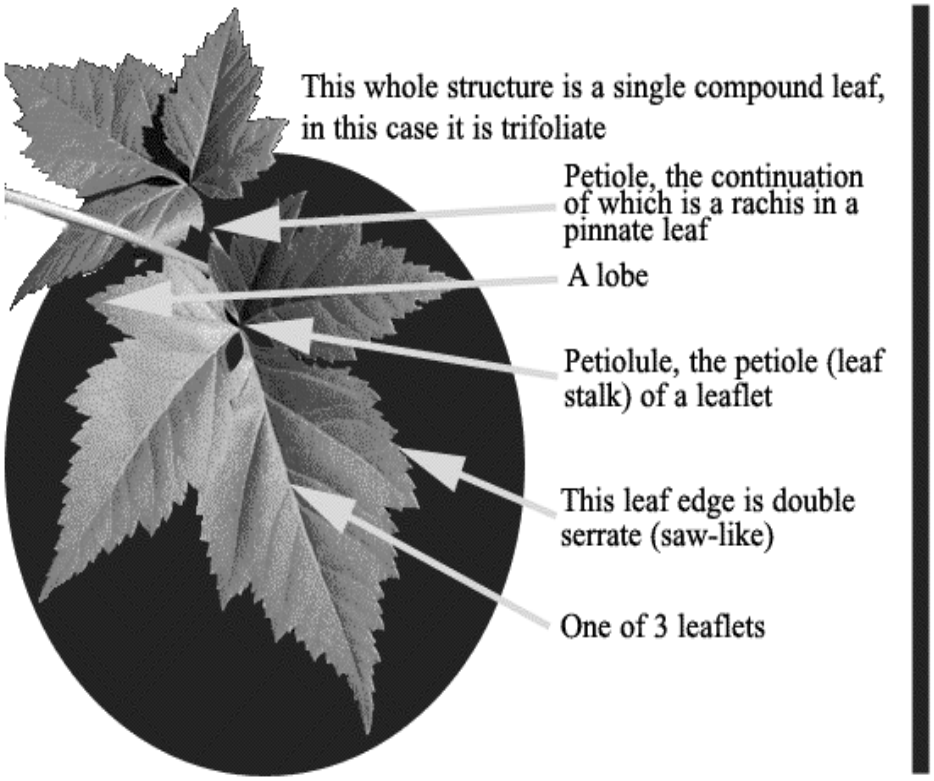
Learning to identify your forest during any season. Most people know it by the Leaf—can you identify it by other means?

Leaf Key

Dichotomous Keys

LEARNING TO MAKE TREE INDENTIFICATION





TREE-WHIZ

LEARNING PAGE

Welcome to a forest.

A forest is an area of plants and animals made up mostly of trees. Every forest has layers of plants. These main layers are the canopy, the understory, and the forest floor.

The **canopy** is formed by the branches an leaves from the tallest trees. Beneath the canopy is the **understory**, where shorter trees and shrubs grow. The **forest floor** has seedlings, grasses, ferns, and crumbling plants and logs. Different layers of the forest.

Different kinds of plants and animals live in different kinds of forests, too. Why? Because forests have different soils, climates, and amounts of water. For example, a hemlock tree grows best in a wet, moist, cool, forest. A chestnut oaks grows better where it is dry and warm.

Forest ecology is the study of how soils, sunlight, water, and other parts of nature work together to make a unique forest.

Any product or benefit that comes from the forest is a **forest resource**.

Forests are a **renewable Resource** because if they are taken care of they will re-grow.

FILL IN THE BLANK

1. *The _____ is the top of the forest and is made up of branches and leaves from the tallest trees.*
2. *_____ is the study of how soil, light, water and living things work together, blending to make a unique forest.*
3. *Proper care or our natural resources is called _____.*
4. *_____ is a science, a business, and an art that includes conservation and management of forests.*
5. *Management of the forest for more than one resource is called _____ management.*
6. *Forests are a _____ because they can regrow and renew themselves.*
7. *The layer of shorter trees and shrubs directly below the canopy is called the _____.*
8. *The _____ is the bottom later in a forest ecosystem, where seedlings, grasses, and wildflowers grow.*

Curiosity leads to learning

Words to Learn

Renewable resources
Forest Floor
Conservation
Forestry
Forest Ecology
Multiple Resources
Understory
Canopy

From:
TREES + ME=FORESTRY
A 4-H Publication
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College of Agricultural Sciences
Cooperative Extension

THE IMPORTANCE OF SNOW

Written by: Bryan Swistock, E-mail: brs@psu.edu

the lack of snow cover can be a blessing or a disaster

Residents of Pennsylvania are used to dealing with snow. Annual snowfall ranges from an average of about 20 inches in southeastern counties to nearly 100 inches downwind of Lake Erie. But the winter of 2006-07 has been anything but average. As of late January much of central and eastern Pennsylvania still has not received one inch of snow, breaking records that date back to the late 1800's.

Depending on your perspective, the lack of snow cover can be a blessing or a disaster. Less snow reduces energy costs, eases travel and prolongs some outdoor recreation but is devastating to ski enthusiasts and the businesses that rely on them. The impact that a lack of snow cover can have on water supplies around the state is less obvious.

Unlike some western states where snow may account for more than 80% of the annual precipitation, snow typically makes up 10 to 25% of the annual precipitation in Pennsylvania. Although snow is less important than rainfall, the presence of a snow pack in spring can be a very important source of water in the forest. Melting snow forms temporary vernal ponds that serve as a critical habitat for many forest amphibians.

The snow pack that accumulates during an average winter also insulates the soil underneath it keeping the soil largely unfrozen and able to absorb water from melting snow. Since trees and other plants are dormant during early spring, most of the snowmelt water entering the soil infiltrates deep below the surface where it recharges ground water aquifers. When snow cover is lacking, not only is less water available but the soil may also freeze deeper preventing snowmelt or rain from recharging ground water until later in the spring.

Ground water aquifers that are recharged in the spring by melting snow provide water supply wells and streams with a steady source of cool ground water during the long, hot summer. Fish and other stream life have adapted to the increased stream flows in spring and the relatively cool ground water that is supplied to the stream throughout the summer. Without this spring recharge, stream levels may drop and stream temperatures may increase to dangerous levels during the summer. The effects of a lack of snow on water resources can be offset by frequent rainfall during the spring. However, once the growing season begins, the window of opportunity to recharge ground water is lost until the next dormant season.

The next time you are celebrating the warm, snow-free winter weather or cursing old man winter as you shovel snow, consider the important role that snow plays in ensuring water supplies and stream ecosystems throughout the state.

DON'S DIARY

(Continued from page 4)

erty.

This February, I took part in a workshop at McKeever Environmental Learning Center - Wood Working for Wildlife. They provided copies of the Game Commission Woodworking For Wildlife booklet to all who attended. In Early March they will have their annual workshop on Bluebirds and Purple Martins. Every year in February and March McKeever puts on a variety of programs that might interest you. You can check them out on their web page at: www.McKeever.org or call them at 724 376-1000. During the summer Goddard State Park puts on similar programs with hands on checking out nesting activities. For more information on Goddard programming go to www.visitPAparks.com and find our calendar of events. Topics that Goddard State Park usual covers are Purple Martins, Bluebirds, Osprey, Bats. You can also get information from The Friends of Goddard Web page: www.friendsofgoddard.org

THE FORESTER'S FORUM

Mark Bodamer, Forester DCNR, Bureau of Forestry

Diameter Limit Cutting -- - Destroying Your Forest

A diameter limit cut is defined as the harvest of all trees over a specific diameter, typically 14 or 16 inches. By cutting the larger, more valuable trees, this type of cut leads to *high-grading*, which in a nutshell, takes the best and leaves the rest. It removes the high-grade trees and leaves the low-grade trees. This leaves the forest in a biologically and aesthetically degraded condition for a long period of time. It is analogous to pulling up your most prized tomato plants and leaving the suppressed and inferior plants to grow the tomatoes.

Most of the forests throughout Pennsylvania are in an *even-aged* condition that is a result of extensive heavy cutting in the past. Therefore, most of the trees in your forest are within 20 years of age to each other. The smaller trees are small for a reason; they were out-competed for sunlight, space and nutrients by more vigorous cohorts. Genetics may have been a factor but favorable circumstances and the species growth characteristics were most likely the main reason for the competitive advantage. They have been crowded and/or suppressed for a period of time and are of lower vigor and poorer health compared to the more dominant trees. Because of their poor condition and having been suppressed and crowded for a period of time, opening these suppressed trees to sunlight will not make them grow into valuable timber trees. Their growth response will be very limited, and they will severely limit the growth of new seedlings by blocking sunlight with their canopy. Often, deer will quickly browse over what new regeneration may be growing on the forest floor. Hence, after a diameter limit cut, we have a forest with poor genetics and suppressed, low vigor trees and low value species, often with little or no regeneration.

Unfortunately, diameter limit cutting is the type of cut most often practiced on private forestlands. It is the easiest type of cut to employ and probably the most understandable for many landowners. Unfortunately, it gives no consideration or planning for the future forest's species composition, spacing, wood and wildlife production, or new forest establishment through natural regeneration.

A typical landowner, if he or she cuts properly, may have one or two more harvests left in their lifetime. Apply a diameter limit cut and you're probably done, and most likely so is any income potential for your children. You leave a legacy to future generations of trying to correct a poor and unsustainable cutting practice from the past, usually by clearcut. Clearcutting is often the only option available to correct a diameter limit cut. At least this would remove the canopy of inferior, low vigor, and low value species so that the forest may start anew.

Diameter limit cutting is wrong.

The smaller trees are small for a reason; they were out-competed for sunlight, space and nutrients by more vigorous cohorts

Erie Times-News

Erie Times-News (PA) December 7, 2006

Police cut into logger's business

By TIM HAHN tim.hahn@timesnews.com

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ALBION -- Thomas McCamman figured he had a good deal when Randy Snyder handed him $3,300.

The money was McCamman's cut of a deal that Snyder offered the Elk Creek Township man during the summer of 2004.

If McCamman would allow Snyder to harvest the abundance of cherry trees on McCamman's 81-acre spread along Route 6N, Snyder would sell the wood to lumber buyers and split the proceeds with the landowner.

"The agreement was never put in writing"

"You figure, for one load of cherry I got $3,300 out of it," McCamman, 70, said Wednesday. "But then the money stopped."

Pennsylvania State Police investigators believe that Snyder hauled at least 16 more loads of cherry logs out of McCamman's woods between Aug. 1 and Sept. 30, 2004.

Police put a conservative estimate of $25,000 on the value of those logs. But the only additional money McCamman collected from the deal was $1,500, after a $3,800 check issued by Snyder's company bounced, according to police.
Snyder, 30, of Union City, now faces felony charges.

"I got $3,300 out of it"

……

" Police put a conservative estimate of $25,000"

State police Trooper Donald Claypoole on Tuesday charged Snyder with theft by unlawful taking, theft by deception and theft by failure to make required disposition of funds received in the case.

The charges come as Snyder sits in state prison. He was sentenced in November to three to six years on charges that he pulled a similar scam in Venango County.

Snyder also awaits sentencing in Erie County on charges he harvested trees from a couple in Springfield Township in 2005, but failed to pay them for the trees he took.

In the criminal complaint he filed against Snyder, Claypoole alleged Snyder and another man approached McCamman during the summer of 2004 as representatives of North Timco Timber Harvesting. They made a verbal commitment to buy some of McCamman's timber, sell it wholesale and pay McCamman 50 percent of the proceeds.

The agreement was never put in writing, McCamman said.

"It's my stupidity. I trusted the man," he said. "I'm from old school. My word is my bond."

McCamman was supposed to receive his cut of the timber sale each Saturday. He received $3,300 the first Saturday, but then nothing over the next two Saturdays, he said.

"I got to bugging him on the phone a little bit, and I got a check for $3,800. That bounced like India rubber," McCamman said.

Snyder later paid McCamman $1,500 toward the bad check, but never gave the landowner another cent, Claypoole said.
Investigators checked the records of lumber buyers in northwestern Pennsylvania and determined that at least 17 loads of McCamman's lumber were sold.

"The part that really bothers me is he took out seven to eight loads of white wood. They were supposed to saw that lumber for me, and we were going to use it to build my wife a house," McCamman

(Continued on page 11)

logger's business

(Continued from page 10)

said. "Talk about being in the doghouse." Snyder is scheduled to be arraigned on Claypoole's charges on Jan. 5, the same date he is scheduled to appear in Erie County Common Pleas Court for arraignment on the charges involving the lumber taken from Springfield Township in 2005.

Snyder is also scheduled for sentencing Jan. 5 on charges that he was given nine all-terrain vehicles to sell or repair at a business he ran in Washington Township in late 2005. Police accused him of keeping the money without doing the work or selling the ATVs and keeping the proceeds.

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Erie Times-News (PA) December 7, 2006

What you should know before selling your trees

by TIM HAHN tim.hahn@timesnews.com

There's good money to be made in selling trees, if the landowner does it right, Cecile Stetler said.

Stetler, assistant district forester for the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry, said it's never a good idea to sell timber to a person who approaches a landowner with little more than a promise.

"When a decision is made to sell timber, the most important thing a landowner should know is what they have and what they should sell," she said.

Forestry officials recommend landowners hire private forestry consultants who can inventory the owners' trees.

"The person knocking on your door has an idea of what you have and what they want to pay you. The owner should be equally as informed on what they have and what it's worth to sell it," Stetler said.

A forestry consultant can do the work of selecting and marking the right trees to sell, and then putting those trees out for competitive bid.

"That means the same trees will get marketed to a dozen or more companies for them to bid on the trees. That way a company that needs a particular species or size of tree has the option of bidding more for them. The owner then gets the best price," Stetler said.

A professional forester also can generate written contracts for the sale of an owner's timber. Those contracts typically include a requirement that the timber harvester provide a performance deposit, which is a portion of money set aside in escrow for the seller in case something goes wrong in the transaction, Stetler said.

"That way the landowner can mitigate any damages," she said.

Contracts should also cover plans for repairing any damage to the land caused by cutting, piling and hauling out the trees, Stetler said.

For more information on selling timber, contact the DCNR's regional office in Warren at (814) 723-0262.

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"the most important thing a landowner should know is what they have and what they should sell"

In Mercer County
For information on selling timber, contact :

Mark Bodamer, Forester
DCNR, Bureau of Forestry
684 Lake Wilhelm Road
Sandy Lake, PA 16145

(724) 253-3634

Mbodamer@state.pa.us

Mercer County Woodland Owners Association

Attn: Pat Campbell, Sec
778 Sunol Road
Cochranton, PA 16314

Send membership dues to :Pat Campbell 778 Sunol Road Cochranton, PA 16314

Need an application? call or e-mail. Or at the web site

www.MCWOA.org

On the web
www.MCWOA.org

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	
	Patrick Kelly	Dane Mitchell	
		Donald Campbell	
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.

FARWELL TO DAVE

BY GARY MICSKY

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the loss of one of MCWOA's early life members. David T. Rynd, Regional Director for Penn State Cooperative Extension in the Northwest Region passed away on February 3, 2007. Dave strongly supported the concept of our association and recognized its potential to deliver educational programming to an underserved audience. Dave also realized the initial cost of starting such an organization, and putting legs underneath it would be critical to its success and he quickly became one of our earliest "life members".

Dave was known for his love of agriculture, the woods, and especially our young people. One of his greatest pleasures was spending time in the woods with his granddaughters' deer hunting. His commitment to the 4-H program is legendary. He was very pleased and proud of the success of MCWOA and the participation of so many MCWOA members on the Mercer County Cooperative Extension Board, advisory committees, and representation at special regional visits by the Dean of our College of Agriculture and the Director of the School of Forest Resources. Dave understood the importance of an educated and visible group of forest landowners and he held MCWOA up as an example of how private forest landowners, Extension, and the Bureau of Forestry could work together to accomplish great things.

The family, friends and colleagues of Dave Rynd have established the David T. Rynd Memorial Scholarship Fund. This Scholarship is intended to both honor his memory and to celebrate his passion for agricultural and natural resource education. He would be pleased to see this scholarship opportunity. As the criteria are still being determined, monetary contributions can be sent directly to:

David T. Rynd Memorial Scholarship Fund
c/o Shenango Valley Foundation
33 Chestnut Street
Sharon, PA 16146

Dave is survived by his wife Jane, daughter Annie, son Ryan, and three granddaughters. Those who wish to send condolences and a thank you for Dave's support of MCWOA can do so by sending a card to: Jane Rynd and Family, 181 Tait Rd., Mercer PA 16137